

Monday August 31 1998

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The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

England v. Sri Lanka

Oval goes pear-shaped for England

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Prescott furious at rejection of plans

Blair halts transport reforms

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE Prime Minister has wrecked John Prescott's much-vaunted transport strategy by ruling out legislation to tackle Britain's mounting road and rail problems in the next parliamentary session.

Government sources last night confirmed that Mr Blair had informed the bitterly disappointed Deputy Prime Minister that there will be no action on his transport white paper for at least a year, and no guarantee of legislation in the 1999-2000 session.

Mr Prescott has been fighting a losing battle throughout the year to convince Mr Blair that action to improve Britain's crumbling transport system is not only necessary, but has the overwhelming support of the public, including both sides of industry.

But Mr Blair is equally determined not to alienate the electorate, and particularly Middle England, which helped to vote Labour in. In spite of his huge parliamentary majority, Mr Blair is unwilling to take any chances which would harm Labour's prospects.

A government committee is meeting later this week to discuss the contents of the Queen's Speech, but transport legislation will not figure in it.

Government sources stressed that while transport remained an important issue, it would have to take its place in the queue. They said that the Government would act when it could, but the crowded legislative programme meant that some sacrifices had to be made.

Mr Prescott, who is on holiday, has been aware of Mr Blair's plans for several weeks. He is angry because it means that action on an integrated transport policy has been put to the back of the political agenda as road and rail problems grow.

Some of Mr Prescott's colleagues argued yesterday that he has become the victim of running too large a department, straddling the environment, transport and the English regions. His department will subsequently be responsible for legislation on local authority reform and the establishment of a new mayor for London. This will bring changes to the operation of London Transport, but the body which could bring about a transformation, the strategic rail authority, requires legislation and may not start operating until 2000 or even later. The political implication is that passengers are unlikely to see any marked improvement in rail services before the next election.

On the roads, Mr Prescott's powers are also limited. The Prime Minister's aversion to alienating the motorist will therefore limit his deputy to the introduction of pilot



schemes in several key cities to test whether levying local charges on motorists is a good idea.

Under Mr Prescott's grand design, local authorities will be allowed to charge motorists to drive into city centres at peak hours, so long as the money raised is spent on improving public transport. But all this will now have to wait, and anything more controversial, like motorway tolls, is ruled out completely until after the election.

The pressure on Mr Prescott means that he will have to find alternative methods of dealing with this setback. By the autumn, he will be able to trumpet the news that work has finally started on building the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

But he needs a scalp at the Labour Party conference in a month's time. It is now not enough to promise the public that he will act against the rail industry's "fat cats". Industry sources said last night that he will have to demonstrate that he is achieving it.

He has just ordered the rail franchise director, John O'Brien, to act more effectively against rail companies whose services fall below agreed standards. Chiltern Railways has been ordered to pay back £2.5 million for inferior services, and tougher action is threatened against the bigger rail companies like Connex and Virgin.

But he may also act against the rail regulator, John Swift, whose five-year contract expires in November. Mr Swift, a lawyer appointed by the Tories, and Mr Prescott have enjoyed an uneasy relationship, and Mr Prescott is considering whether to use the regulator as his sacrificial lamb for the party conference.

Government sources said yesterday that the most likely solution was that Mr Swift would be "phased out gradually". This suggests that he will only be offered a short-term contract after November until a suitable successor can be found.

Leader comment, page 9



Damon Hill jumps for joy at his and Jordan's first Grand Prix win this year, in Belgium

PHOTOGRAPH: BENJAMIN DORRANCE



Michael Owen celebrates the first goal in his hat-trick

Hill laps up first victory in 22 months

DAMON HILL won his first Grand Prix for nearly two years in Belgium yesterday in atrocious wet conditions which caused many competitors to drop out.

Hill emerged from an action-packed race, which had to be restarted after a multiple pile-up at the first corner, to celebrate his first win since he clinched the world championship in October 1996.

Celebrating his 22nd victory, which gave the Jordan team his first success at the 127th attempt, Hill said: "This is a great day for the Jordan team — just brilliant."

"We are really going to go out and celebrate this. It's time to party."

In the Premiership yesterday England's World Cup hero Michael Owen rained on Ron Galt's parade at Newcastle.

The 18-year-old scored a magnificent hat-trick inside 15 first-half minutes as Liverpool cruised to a 4-1 win at St James' Park in Galt's first match since taking over as manager from Kenny Dalglish.

Liverpool match report, Sport, page 13; Belgian Grand Prix, pages 18-19

Russian deadlock after Yeltsin backtracks

James Meek in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin appeared set last night to reject a draft accord which would have seen him surrender some of the Russian presidency's immense constitutional powers.

A short-lived consensus broke down as Mr Yeltsin's stubbornness threatened the "breakthrough" draft political accord reached yesterday by Russia's constitutional triangle of parliament, government and president.

Asked on television about constitutional amendments, the president said: "No. Not yet. A committee could be set up. That could be done."

Without Mr Yeltsin's signature on the accord, the left-patriot opposition which dominates the lower house of parliament, the Duma, will not approve Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister and there will be no government to tackle the financial crisis which has sent the rouble into free fall.

Last night the leader of the biggest party in the Duma, Gennady Zyuganov, said his Communists had rejected the accord and would not vote for Mr Chernomyrdin.



Viktor Chernomyrdin: faces real test of political weight

The whole premise of talks on the accord over the weekend was that Mr Yeltsin was willing to be weaned off his autocratic powers and fade into the background, transferring the weight of decision-making to the government and whatever majority coalition the Duma can come up with.

But Mr Yeltsin said he wanted to see at least a year of committee work before amending the constitution could even be discussed by

parliament. If his timetable was followed, work would not be finished until after presidential elections in 2000.

As Russians return from holiday this week to face economic chaos and a 40 per cent cut in their purchasing power, the answer to the question of who is in charge has never been less clear.

The situation is the critical test of Mr Chernomyrdin. He is only useful to parliament if he can deliver Mr Yeltsin's partial retirement, and only useful to Mr Yeltsin if he can protect his clan from the wrath of parliament and the business community. The prime minister-designate must make a choice — govern with parliament or without it.

The proposed accord included an 18-month non-aggression pact. During that time parliament, government and president would not attempt to unseat each other.

It also called for changes to the constitution to give parliament, rather than the president, the dominant role in shaping governments.

Last night Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal turn to page 2, column 8

Part in quick fix, page 7; Crisis on the West, page 12

Loneliness of virtual living

Study warns that Internet use can lead to increased depression

Mark Trim in New York

THE more that people use the Internet, the more they tend to feel depressed and lonely, according to a two-year study on the social and psychological effects of surfing in cyberspace.

Researchers at the Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, found that people who spend even a few hours a week online experience higher levels of depression and loneliness than if they surf the web less frequently.

The results of the \$1.5 million (\$800,000) project ran contrary to expectations of social

scientists and to many of the hi-tech companies that financed the study.

"These were normal adults and their families and on average, for those who used the Internet most, things got worse," said Robert Kraut, a social psychology professor at Carnegie Mellon.

The study, called Homenet, suggested that the interactive medium may be no more healthy than more passive media, particularly television, sometimes disparaged as the idiot-box.

Participants in the study used inherently social features such as e-mail and Internet chat more than they used passive information

gathering such as reading or watching videos. But they reported a decline in interaction with family and a reduction in their circle of friends that directly corresponded to the amount of time they spent online.

By the end of the study, which covered 189 people, the researchers found that one hour a week on the Internet led to an average increase of 1 per cent on the depression scale, a loss of 2.7 members of the subject's social circle, and an increase of 0.4 per cent on the so-called loneliness scale. While the net effects were not large, they were statistically significant in demonstrating deterioration of social and psychological life, said Prof Kraut.

Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>

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In today's 12-page sports section: Damon Hill makes a glorious comeback in an anarchic Belgian Grand Prix

+ England v. Sri Lanka Test Match latest + Weekend racing results + Football reports and analysis + Crossword

President's office hatches plan for four top European commissioners and the streamlining of unwieldy bureaucracy

Santer plans 'super Eurocrats'

Martin Walker in Brussels

THE European Commission is planning to appoint a top layer of super-commissioners in the biggest shake-up in its history.

"Europe needs authoritative voices, in foreign affairs and in the decision-making bodies of international finance," a Commission source told the Guardian yesterday, acknowledging that the 15 member states of the European Union would "fight like dogs" for the new top jobs, which will include one person to speak on all foreign policy

matters, and another to run financial affairs.

The plans are being prepared inside the office of the Commission president, Jacques Santer, who wants to see them approved by member states next year in time for the appointment of a new Commission in 2000.

Mr Santer believes that the current system, under which every member state has at least one commissioner and the bigger ones have two, has created a large and unwieldy body which leaves too many commissioners too little to do. But since he sees little prospect of any country giving up its right to appoint a commissioner, he is promoting the

new layer as a rational governing structure.

The new officials would be called vice-presidents, and four or five would join the Commission president in an inner circle. A draft suggests vice-presidents for foreign affairs, financial matters, trade, and competition and the internal market. The importance of farming, which accounts for 40 per cent of the EU budget, would mean that the agriculture commissioner would, in effect, join the "big four".

Each of the vice-presidents would co-ordinate the work of junior commissioners, the reduced status of whom would be reflected by a serious reduction in their press office staff.

Because large countries such as Germany, France, Britain and Italy would use all their muscle to secure one of the top jobs, Mr Santer is also considering a gentlemen's agreement under which the president would always come from a small country such as his own, Luxembourg.

The plan, which might provoke a protest from member states which feel it smacks of federal government and gives the Commission too much power, is a clear indication that Mr Santer plans a second presidential term.

"President Santer will not

campaign for a second term, but he will not turn it down if the job is offered by the member states," said a Commission source close to Mr Santer, who is evidently planning to take full advantage of new presidential powers, granted under the Amsterdam treaty, to distribute portfolios.

Advocates of the new vice-president system claim it has three main advantages. It could, they say, provide a political authority to speak and act for the euro.

While Wim Duisenberg, the head of the new European central bank, can liaise with his United States equivalent, the chairman of the Federal

Reserve Board, on interest rates and monetary supply, there is no European equivalent to the US treasury secretary. Such a figure would be needed in international meetings of groups such as the IMF and G7, and to join the US treasury secretary in taking political decisions on issues such as tackling the current storm in world markets.

A single foreign affairs commissioner would end the current confusion under which various commissioners handle different parts of the world. The EU has already agreed to appoint at this year's Vienna summit a "high authority" to develop the

Common Foreign and Security Policy required by the Amsterdam treaty. A new super-commissioner is seen as the logical accompaniment.

The plan would also tackle the problem of an even larger group of 27 commissioners which would have arisen after the accession of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus and Poland.

"We all know there has to be a fundamental overhaul of the Commission system," the senior source said. "If the member states reject this plan, the burden will then be on them to come up with their own."

Newley, 1960s singing heartthrob, joins cast of EastEnders

Nicola Vassalli

SIXTIES icon Anthony Newley is making an unexpected return from celebrity oblivion after landing a lead role in EastEnders.

The singer, songwriter and actor, a heartthrob in his heyday, is to star as Barbara Windsor's new beau in the BBC TV soap opera.

Newley, aged 66, who has just finished filming his first episode, will make his debut in six weeks time.

An EastEnders spokeswoman said: "It's a great coup for us."

"He was a massive star in the 1960s and his new character will definitely get people talking."

"He finished recording last week and he was a big hit on the set."

Newley plays yet another of Walford's second-hand car salesmen who gets involved in a shady business deal with Roy Evans. He starts a romance with Queen Vic landlady Peggy Mitchell which develops into a classic EastEnders love triangle, with Frank Butcher, alias Mike Reid.

"We don't really know how the audience will take to Anthony's new character," said the EastEnders spokeswoman. "And his role may be short lived if he's a big hit, however, he could become one of our regular faces."

Newley first found fame at 16 when he starred as the Artful Dodger in David Lean's Oliver Twist. He later became one of America's biggest solo entertainers.

At the height of his fame he was so feared that Mafia bosses who ruled Las Vegas insisted on buying him a chocolate-brown Jaguar.

A spokesman for Newley, who was born in Hackney, east London, said he was thrilled at landing the job.

Low profile at Balmoral for Diana anniversary

Palace statement thanks public for their kindness as Brown's TV appearance raises eyebrows

Gerard Soeteman and Barry Neild

IN A convoy of limousines and an incongruous people carrier, the royal family yesterday arrived at Crathie Kirk. A comparatively small number of people stood watching respectfully at the roadside.

Bigger crowds to mark the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are expected today.

Ten minutes before the royal family's arrival, Tony Blair and his wife Cherie, who are spending the weekend with the royals at Balmoral, drove up to the kirk. It is understood that Mr Blair was anxious his presence did not detract from the royal family's grief.

There was no mention of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in the service at Crathie. The royal chaplain, the Rev Robert Sloan, and the Rev Alan Main, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, chose rather to concentrate their words on the theme of her death.

Buckingham Palace, however, later took the unusual step of issuing a statement thanking the public for their kindness in the year following the death of the late

princess. "The Queen and the royal family, particularly the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, would like to thank people for their messages and kind gestures of support at this sad time and for sharing their remembrance of the Princess of Wales," it said.

On the day that congregations around the world were asked to remember the princess, Mr Sloan made only the vaguest of reference to her death. "Remember all who grieve today that they may be given strength and courage," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Church of Scotland said later that Mr Sloan had omitted Diana's name purposely. The names of the dead are never mentioned in the Church of Scotland, except at special services.

"We believe they are with God and we could wish no better for them."

Sunday mornings at Balmoral have a long tradition for the royals and yesterday they deviated little from their usual routine.

The Queen, dressed in a pale blue knee-length coat, was flanked by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother on her left, and by Prince Harry, Charles and William on her right, as she



An Englishwoman lays flowers yesterday at the makeshift monument to Princess Diana near where she died in Paris

PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL CIRIACU

took her place in the front pew at Crathie.

The rest of the royal family took their seats in the new building. Outside, the crowds who had come to offer their support to Princes William and Harry were disappointed not to have caught a glimpse of them.

"It was impossible to see them through the dark windows of the cars. They will be bearing up I am sure, but God knows this is a terrible weekend for them," said Dorothy

Gramham from Aberdeen. When the service ended, the congregation silently made its way outside, the few hundred who had waited for the road vowed that they would return today.

But at the tree-lined gates of Balmoral, only three bouquets were laid in memoriam. "People will lay more on the day of the anniversary. That's why we are here after all — to remember the sad event of Diana's death. The hysteria has died down

this is respect," said Margaret Frazier from Piddichary. While the atmosphere at yesterday's service was one of muted reflection, tributes elsewhere were cast more in the controversial mould which has become the trademark of all things Diana.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, chairman of the Diana Memorial Committee, courted criticism with an appearance on the BBC's Songs of Praise in which he spoke of his respect for the Princess.

He told presenter Diana Louise Jordan, a fellow committee member, that Diana was widely revered "because she had shone a torch into areas of life that a lot of people had been happy to forget."

"Her legacy is that she has made not only Britain a better place but she's made hundreds of thousands of people in Britain feel more confident about what they can do to make Britain a better place. "Therefore it's not some-

thing that is forgotten in a month or a year. It is something that lives with all of us for as long as we live."

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Blair was fully aware of Mr Brown's involvement with the pre-recorded programme.

Elsewhere, Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, was also paying public tributes, this time to the members of a Northamptonshire Cricket Club for their support "over the past turbulent year."

Deadlock in Russia as Yeltsin backtracks

continued from page 1

Yabloko movement, which has about a tenth of the Duma's seats, rubbished the accord. "As soon as we vote for Chernomyrdin, this piece of paper will be thrown in the bin," he said.

The Duma had been due to vote on Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy today, but this now seems unlikely.

Earlier, a cheerful Mr Chernomyrdin said he and fellow negotiators had "virtually won advance approval" of the accord. "The trouble is hanging by a thin thread," he said. "Decisions must be made... The country cannot function without a government."

A hint of one possible solution was given by the expected arrival in Moscow of Argentina's former economic minister Domingo Cavallo at the invitation of the deputy prime minister, Boris Fyodorov. Mr Cavallo was responsible for curbing hyper-inflation in Argentina by introducing a currency board.

The deadlock could cause considerable embarrassment for US president Bill Clinton, who arrives tomorrow for a three-day visit. No matter whom he meets among the leadership, he will be distracting them from the task of hammering out a compromise — or, even more uncomfortably, will be drawn into the horse-trading himself.

It is hard to see what grounds there are for progress in talks when Mr Chernomyrdin is bent on assuring the West, and principally the IMF, that Russia will stick to the market reform path, while Mr Zyuganov is demanding that the IMF's recommendations be watered down.

Sign off with the clapped out and ridiculous

Review

Garth Cartwright

Reading Festival

WHEN Reading rolls around, it spells the end of the festival season. Many — including the promoters, the Mean Fiddler — must be breathing a sigh of relief. With Glastonbury a three-day nightmare, Phoenix collapsing before it began and newcomer Universe cancelled due to lack of interest, 1998 will go down as the year rock festivals fell out of favour.

Only Womad and Megadog's Beach Festival could be

counted as successes, both offering more intimate, left-field attractions. Reading, always home to rock monsters, boasts no atmosphere and a relentless diet of rock. Situated in a damp field encompassing Ferris wheels, panga-jumping, junk-food stands and their accumulating debris, it is not for the faint-hearted. Yet Britain's oldest rock festival effortlessly serves up more than a hundred acts in its three days.

This year punters got lucky with the addition of the Prodigy and New Order, both originally booked for Phoenix. Beefing up the bill helped the festival to sell out, attracting 55,000 people across a sunny, relaxed weekend.

Reading is best enjoyed by

avoiding the main stage while feasting on the lesser-known bands who have spent the summer drifting around the European festival circuit.

This year the American contingent offered Grandaddy's dron country rock lyricism, Soul Coughing's beatnik funk, Rancid's boisterous ska-punk and Royal Trux's leathery swag. Mercury Awards nominee Aslan Dub Foundation and Glastonbury's festival spurs with inspired performances, while Brixton's Alabama 3's engaging take on chemical country raised the roof of the Dr Martens tent.

Reading's main-stage headliners, by contrast, were rarely inspired. Friday night found cock-rock gods Page & Plant mimicking their early

seventies glory. The epic qualities of Led Zepplin are long gone, with vocalist Robert Plant — still wearing his hair bleached and permed — all miming camp, while Jimmy Page's guitar work lacks both finesse and crunch.

Dread the thought of what the Prodigy will resemble when they reach their fifties. With their huge sound, dearth of subtlety and beastly bad behaviour, they are the logical heirs to Led Zepplin. Band mascot Keith Flint, dressed in a fetching tunic, is already as ridiculous as Plant.

"A Beastie Boy rang me last night and asked us not to play this song," Prodigy MC Maxim Reality announced. "But we do what we fuckin' want." Watching tens of thou-

sands of people whoop, leap around and chant "Turn my pitch up, smack my bitch up", is a sobering spectacle.

Rock 'n' roll has always prided itself on unbridled stupidity, and the Prodigy's energetic, empty performance was a triumph of ignorance.

Following them were the Beastie Boys. Though well into their thirties, the Beasties remain eternal adolescents as usually. Their mess of rapping, thrashing and instrumental jams may be low on substance, but as stadium spectacle with heart it lifted Reading's spirits. A fitting way to close Saturday night and prepare for the near-religious fervour awaiting New Order's return on Sunday.



Keith Flint on stage with the Prodigy. 'Already as ridiculous as Robert Plant'

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW STUART

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Wild costumes, wild nights of Manumission frenzy... but locals say the behaviour is animal and the consul is sick of sorting out the problems of young Britons

Tourist louts force consul to quit

David Sharrock

IT HAS all been too much for our man in Ibiza. A better class of tourist would have saved the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the necessity of finding a new vice-consul, but the locals all agree: the British are the pits.

Michael Birkett quits today, leaving behind a scummy case-load of bawling, drug-dealing, accidental death and loutish exhibitionism by English visitors, male and female alike, which has made the resort of San Antonio a Balcarrack benchmark of all that is bad about Spanish tourism.

Mr Birkett, aged 51, is not leaving the island — whose Bohemian past, so elegantly recreated in novels by the likes of John Galsworthy, made it a magnet for the 1930s beautiful people — but he is unlikely to spend any more time in San Antonio, a concrete high-rise hell which is the focus of the British invasion.

With the success of British dance culture imports to the island such as Manumission — a frenetic anything-goes nightclub featuring live sex acts — Ibiza has been turned into the rave capital of Europe.

The announcement of the departure of Mr Birkett coincided with an article in the island's newspaper, El Diario de Ibiza, which described the young British tourists as "animals".

Yesterday he said: "Basically, I am sick of the behaviour of some of the young British tourists who come here, and of clearing up the mess they cause." Their drunken antics were ruining Britain's reputation in Europe.

Mr Birkett, who previously worked as an accountant at the British embassy in Madrid, has been in Ibiza for 18 months, where his work has included dealing with crime, drug overdoses and traffic accidents.



'I am sick of the behaviour of some of the British tourists and of clearing up the mess they cause'

Michael Birkett (left), retiring vice-consul

"Not all British tourists behave badly," he said. "There are a lot of families who come here and just enjoy themselves. But there are problems with the younger tourists."

Local journalist Cristina Amador Tur said the behaviour of British tourists in San Antonio made life there intolerable. "They sell drugs, get drunk, start fights. It never stops. English tourism is the worst. The police have had to be reinforced to cope with the problem."

"The trouble is concentrated in an area of bars and clubs known as the West End. Only young British tourists go there and it's always the same old story of fighting," she blamed tour operators, claiming Club 18-30 clients were particularly at fault.

"The tourist authorities are trying to do something about it, but basically it's down to the tour operators. The best advice to all the other tourists who come here — and that includes British as well as Germans and French — is to avoid that area."

Ms Tur rejected reports in one newspaper that Mr Birkett had resigned because he was tired of dealing with some 50 accidents and drug-related deaths a year. "There's nothing like that number, but deaths do occur

from time to time. Three weeks ago a Scot drowned in the harbour after falling in drunk, and we get cases of people falling off hotel balconies for the same reason."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman confirmed that Mr Birkett resigned from the post of vice-consul three weeks ago, with effect from today, and that the vacancy has already been filled. It is a full-time salaried job and candidates are recruited locally.

"Quite a lot of the job will involve dealing with tourists who get into trouble," the spokeswoman said.

A spokesman for Club 18-30 said: "There are a lot of other influences at work in Ibiza, who have pushed this party atmosphere image, based around San Antonio which has got its reputation as the dance capital of Europe."

"Our view is that San Antonio is little different to a number of holiday resort destinations around the world with a vibrant youth culture. A lot of things get exaggerated and sensationalised."



Wild times... but the price for some can be death, injuries, hawling and drug overdoses

Sunburn and no knickers

WHAT El Diario de Ibiza had to say:

YOUNG Ladies — good-looking platinum blondes for the most part — shone in English the merits of the nightclub or bar which pays them to hand out publicity material.

By not displaying a genuine British appearance — in other words, blonde or red hair, pale and sunburnt — the visitor risks being refused entrance. Inability to speak the language of Shakespeare is dangerous for those seeking a drink — in most bars making yourself understood in Spanish is impossible.

Six girls decide to cool themselves down without the help of air conditioning by opting to drop their knickers and lift their skirts, for the pleasure of those present. "This is nothing," says the owner of one of the most important bars in the area. "I've even seen men displaying their penises in the street."

This bar owner never ceases to be horrified by the spectacle. "Each year gets worse. But let's just make some money and see if we can get through the summer."

Some other tourists aired their genitals on the balcony of their apartment

two weeks ago. The hooligans then began to masturbate while grunting unintelligibly. It might not have been quite so shocking if it had not been seen by a number of children. Recovering from the shock, they walked quickly on, while the stars of the show continued to shout all sorts of blasphemy.

Some Catalan tourists who recently arrived in the island couldn't help but cover their faces. "Yuk, they are animals," said one. Many locals feel the same way. But very few dare to question the presence of the hooligans in the Bay of Formentor.

Sissons sneers at BBC 'beauty contest' news policy

Key presenter says corporation is undermining the credibility of its television coverage

Kamran Ahmed
Media Editor

THE BBC was facing fresh embarrassment last night when one of its most senior news presenters attacked managers for undermining television news coverage.

In a strongly worded attack, Peter Sissons, who presents the BBC's flagship Nine O'Clock News, said the corporation was eroding the credibility of its news by holding a "beauty contest" to find more viewers-friendly faces.

"I feel that after what's happened in the last few weeks, I have to do something to redress the professional damage being done to BBC news."

Mr Sissons said in an interview with Media Guardian.

"We are part of the BBC's assets. But its managers have been undermining our stature by giving the impression

to viewers that we're dispensable. People don't just turn to the BBC, they turn to its presenters. We give the BBC credibility."

It is the first time that Mr Sissons, with more than 30 years' experience, has spoken with such frankness about the state of BBC news.

His attack comes a month after another BBC presenter, Anna Ford, criticised BBC managers for being spineless.

Mr Sissons, aged 58, was responding to a series of leaks about a BBC "love list" of presenters who have been ranked according to what viewers think of them.

The list is part of the huge BBC news review which managers will use to overhaul the Six O'Clock and Nine O'Clock bulletins. Lunchtime and Breakfast News are also being reviewed as the corporation struggles to give a fresher feel to its coverage.

Ms Ford, Justin Webb and Edward Stourton are thought



'If the BBC seems to lack confidence in its presenters, why should the public believe in them?'

Peter Sissons (left)

to be at risk after viewers described some presenters as "too starchy".

"By refusing to make any convincing public defence of its TV presenting team [the BBC] has practically invited the public to conclude that it has no confidence in them," Mr Sissons said.

"Professionally that is very damaging for me and other colleagues."

"If the BBC appears to lack confidence in its presenters,



Anna Ford: spoke of 'spineless' managers

Mr Hall, speaking for the first time about the review which has taken over a year, gave a detailed response to Mr Sissons' attack.

"We've got the best presenters in the business and I can understand that the review of our programmes is unsettling for them," Mr Hall said.

"But we have to get the right presenters in the right places across 12 separate networks."

"It is not surprising that

that will take time.

"What is certain, though, is that audiences want presenters with real journalistic fire power and credibility and that's what the BBC will deliver."

Despite reports that the review will be completed next month, it now appears that it will be delayed for a further period of time.

Mr Sissons is the latest in a string of BBC news and current affairs figures who have attacked the corporation's management.

The former Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, resigned in 1994, having described the BBC as a "Big Brother regime run on fear and sycophancy."

In 1994, John Tusa, former managing director of the World Service and Newsnight anchor, attacked the rise of management consultants, jargon and the relentless quest for efficiency under John Birt's regime.

Veteran drama producer Kenneth Trodd, who worked closely with Dennis Potter, left after his contract was not renewed following his calling the BBC's drama department "a mess".

Phone taps led police to road rage suspect

Duncan Campbell
and Nick Hopkins

KENNETH Noye, Britain's most wanted man and chief suspect in the road rage murder of Stephen Cameron, was traced to Spain by sophisticated phone-tapping techniques, it emerged yesterday.

Detectives began to close in on Mr Noye, who was arrested on Friday, when he started making calls to former business associates from his hide-out in Vejer, Cadiz, a busy port in south-west Spain.

It is believed the police tapped several of his friends when they received independent tips that Mr Noye was alive and living somewhere on the coast. There had previously been speculation that he had been murdered.

According to reports, Mr Noye, aged 52, was sighted by six different witnesses.

Police were able to pinpoint his whereabouts by tracing his calls to the UK.

In early July, Detective Superintendent Nick Eddis, who is leading the murder hunt, was confident enough to send a team of officers to identify Mr Noye and put him under surveillance. One report from Spain yesterday said Mr Noye was windsurfing when officers finally caught up with him. His house was bugged, his car registration logged and every visitor photographed.

The operation is understood to have been underpinned by the Government's spy communication HQ at Cheltenham, and MI5.

Last night Kent police were refusing to say anything about the operation, or speculate on how quickly Mr Noye could be extradited. Although the arrest is a coup for the investigators, the diplomatic process promises to be long and arduous.

Mr Noye is unlikely to volunteer to return to the UK for questioning over the death of 21-year-old Cameron, who was stabbed in May 1996 after

driver of a Land Rover Discovery on a slip road of the M25 at Swanley. Cameron was killed in front of his fiancée, Danielle Cable.

The British government has 40 days to submit an extradition request to the Spanish authorities through the Crown Prosecution Service.

It is up to the CPS to convince a Spanish court that it has enough evidence to warrant Mr Noye's return to face trial in Britain.

Once that extradition request has been lodged it is likely to be bitterly resisted by Mr Noye, and the legal battle in the Madrid courts could take months.

By the time he was named as the prime suspect in the inquiry in the Police Gazette on September 9, Mr Noye had fled the country.

There have been numerous sightings of him since and a report that he was in Russia. Police are unsure how he came to be in Cadiz.

One theory is that he went to northern Cyprus, where he has a home, and then on to mainland Spain. According to Spain's national news agency EFE, Mr Noye has spent most of the last two years living in a luxury apartment near Gibraltar in the outskirts of Tarifa, a windsurfing resort on the Atlantic coast.

If he is extradited, Mr Noye's lawyers are likely to argue that he cannot receive a fair trial due to the publicity surrounding the case.

Mr Noye believes he has been acquitted in 1995 of killing a police officer whom he found in the grounds of his home in Kent.

He told a trial that he thought the officer, Detective Constable John Fordham, was about to attack him.

DC Fordham, who was wearing a balaclava, was spying on Mr Noye as part of a surveillance operation.

After he was cleared, Mr Noye's wife, Brenda, who still lives in Kent, said to him: "They're going to get you Ken, aren't they? If they don't get you here, they're going to get you somewhere else."

Divine victory for Irish comic

Dan Gleister
Arts Correspondent

TOMMY Tiernan, the msnic depressive Father Kevin in the sitcom Father Ted, won this year's Perrier prize at the Edinburgh festival to confirm the dominance of Irish comedians. He took the prize with his first full-length Edinburgh show, the acclaimed UN-divine comedy.

After being presented with the award by previous Perrier winner Jenny Eclair, Tiernan, who is 39 and won the So You Think You're Funny talent contest two years ago, said he was going to use the £5,000 prize money to buy a car, "probably a second-hand Mitsubishi".

UN-divine comedy is a series of stories about Tiernan's childhood and religion. The Guardian warned that it was "not for the narrow-minded".

His show has been likened to Billy Connolly, a comparison Tiernan does not offend the comic. "I don't do jokes, I do long stories," he said. "There are parts in the show when I'm not afraid to be serious."

Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig shared the Edinburgh International Film Festival best actor prize for their performances in John Maybury's film about the painter Francis Bacon, Love Is The Devil. Maybury's film also picked up the Michael Powell Award for best new British feature. The audience award produced

an upset with the British film Get Real, directed by Simon Shore, beating the favourite Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels. The best director award went to Todd Haynes for Velvet Goldmine, while there was a special mention for Gaspar Noe for his first feature, Seul Contre Tous.

The Irish comedian's production, Hum Drum, directed by Peter Peake, won the animation section, while two films shared the best short film category, Matt Hulsey's Wee Three and Jamie Thorne's Just Want To Kiss You. The documentary section was won by Ron Hayville's Fragments of Jerusalem, a six-hour study of Jerusalem through one family's story.



Tommy Tiernan... will use £5,000 prize money for car

Diner shot in restaurant after row over seat claimed by both

Nicole Veness

AMAN was recovering in a hospital yesterday after being shot in the groin by a fellow diner who claimed he had taken his seat in the restaurant.

The man, aged 21 and identified only as Darren, was taken to Homerton Hospital in east London, where a spokeswoman said: "He has had surgery and he will be staying with us for some time. He is in a stable condition."

The incident, at Junior's Caribbean restaurant in Stoke Newington, north London, happened during Saturday evening.

Darren was with a family

party when the argument broke out with another diner. The diner left the restaurant but soon returned with his face partially covered. He walked up to Darren and shot him twice in the lower body with a revolver.

Junior Murdock, owner of the restaurant, said: "Darren had come in with his mum, aunt and cousin. I was in the kitchen when I heard two pops. Because the restaurant is open plan, I could see what was happening. I saw Darren take a hit and then I saw this young lad running away."

The gunman was described as black, slim and in his early twenties, with distinctive burn-like marks on his forehead.

Blair cuts union links with individual help

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY Blair has succeeded spectacularly in his drive to end Labour's historic dependency on the trade union chequebook — but at the price of increased debt and dependency on the whims of wealthy individuals, the party's annual report revealed yesterday.

The high-gloss, reader-friendly report, which will be presented to next month's new-look Labour conference, reveals that Mr Blair entered 10 Downing Street at the back of a record £4.5 million overdraft after spending £13.7 million on the election in 1997 and £26 million over three years — but less than the embattled Conservative Party.

Labour says its debt will be paid off this year, another contrast with the Conservatives, who were £19 million in debt until 1996. As for the unions, they once paid 90 per cent of Labour's bills, a share now down to 30 per cent.

"Membership and small donations" raised 40 per cent, donations of £1,000-plus brought in 20 per cent and the related "events and sponsorship" a further 10 per cent.

These figures are the fruit of fund-raising made more professional under the guidance of Lord Levy, the party's glamorous £500-a-plate dinners, and £1 million cheques from the likes of Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone, which appears as "donation returned" in the accounts.

A predictable welter of publicity greeted the report's list of major donors: those companies and individuals who gave at least £5,000 in money or sponsorship in 1997.

Promptly dubbed the New Labour Establishment, the list includes the actor Jeremy Irons, his wife Sinead Cusack, and pop stars Mick Hucknall and Neil Tennant, as well as heavyweight business leaders such as Gerry Robinson, head of the Granada Group, David Sainsbury, the mega-grocer.

Twenty-eight out of 97 names, according to the Sunday Times, have ended up with some form of government patronage: a committee chairmanship, a ministry job, membership of the Lords or all three. So the Conservatives were quick to denounce what their duty spokesman,



Labour donors, clockwise, from top left: Lisa Stansfield, Melvyn Bragg, Mick Hucknall and Alex Ferguson

Gary Streeter, saw as proof of the "cronyism at the heart of the Government".

The list "reads like the guest list for a Downing Street drinks party", the MP said in a ritual denunciation of "top Labour luvvies" Eddie Izzard, Melvyn Bragg, Ben Elton and others. Labour replied that it would "take no lectures" on the subject. In practice Labour is still ahead of the game in cleaning up its unsatisfactory aspects of its fund-raising in the era of financial transparency.

Ahead of their October conference, the Tories are finally

poised to match Labour's naming of £5,000-plus donors (neither party will say if the gift is £5,001 or £1 million), albeit only for the period since William Hague took over from John Major.

That leaves a mystery over the fund-raising scandals of the late Thatcher-Major years, when ever-increasing desperation and a decline in small gifts and corporate cheques pushed Tory fundraisers in the direction of foreign donors.

Most chose to remain anonymous, except in spectacular cases like Asil Nadir, the fugi-

tive tycoon whose \$400,000 cheque did not save him from the Serious Fraud Office.

Labour's annual report, which ranges confidently over the Government's achievements and goals, warns that it will be "enormously difficult" to cover campaign costs if they keep rising.

The party's outgoing general secretary, Tom Sawyer, has proposed a £15 million general election spending cap to the inquiry into party funding by the Neil Committee. It will be hard to enforce, officials admit. In addition to

winning coming campaigns, the report also stresses the need to finance modernisation of the party's computer systems, as key weapon in 1997.

"In addition, it should be our objective to refinance the party. We are the best-organised political fighting force in Europe and our success and room for manoeuvre should not be constrained by lack of funds," it says.

William Hague, who has started improving internal Tory Party communications, will study the report for ideas to borrow.

Parents warned off coaching for tests

John Carneil
Education Editor

PARENTS of five-year-olds starting school this term should not try to coach them to do well in the new "baseline" assessments of their performance on arrival, the Government will warn this week.

The schools minister Charles Clarke is introducing a £10 million screening programme to establish children's attainment levels at the start of formal primary education.

He wants teachers to use the results as a diagnostic tool to pitch lessons at the right level, giving appropriate individual help to the most and least able.

The information will also form the basis for measuring schools' performance. By comparing baseline scores with the subsequent results of the same pupils in tests at seven and 11, it will be possible to calculate the value added by the school, giving a fairer indication of achievement than the current crude league tables.

The baseline assessments will be carried out by pri-

mary teachers in the next seven weeks. Schemes may vary, but the most common system will score pupils on a scale of one to four according to their competence in eight types of early learning: letter knowledge, reading for meaning and enjoyment, awareness of sounds, writing, speaking and listening, numbers, using mathematical language, and personal and social development.

Teachers are being told that five-year-olds should not even think they are being tested

That would give a maximum score of 33 for the most able and well-adjusted.

But Mr Clarke is concerned that parents might think they could get their children off to a good start by last-minute cramming to improve their baseline scores. "It would be wrong if children were

coached. That would not help teachers identify their strengths and weaknesses," said a senior DfEE source.

The assessments are expected to take about 20 minutes, but teachers are being told that the five-year-olds should not think they are being tested. "Many children will not even realise they have been put through their paces," the source said.

Books will include: holding a book the right way up and turning the pages one by one while talking about what happens on each page; recognising at least two words in a book by pointing to them and saying them aloud; reciting a nursery rhyme; recognising letter shapes; and recounting experiences.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, denied a report that he wanted parents to sign contracts to ensure that their children went to bed on time.

Home-school agreements being introduced across the country cover attendance and discipline, but the Government has ruled out intervention in bedtimes or sleep patterns. We are not interested in creating a nanny state," a spokesman said.

Taxing talk on cannabis

First global conference to address problems of legalised drug

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

IF cannabis was legal, who would sell it? How would it be taxed? What restrictions would there be on advertising it? And how would its use be regulated?

These questions are to be addressed in the first international conference on how cannabis should be regulated if it were legalised or decriminalised.

Scientists, doctors and lawyers from Europe, Australia and North America are gathering in London for the Cannabis Conference, Saturday, which is being hosted by Release, the drugs advice agency and charity and the

will address the challenge of cannabis control, and seek practical alternatives as cannabis prohibition continues.

The organisers say the conference marks a dramatic shift in the debate, from discussions of whether cannabis should be legalised to how it could be regulated after decriminalisation. Supporters of changes in the law argue that not only would legal cannabis cut crime and be a money-earner for governments, but it would also allow health risks to be monitored.

Among speakers at the conference at Regent's College will be academics from the universities of Krakow, Amsterdam, Toronto and California, including experts in jurisprudence.

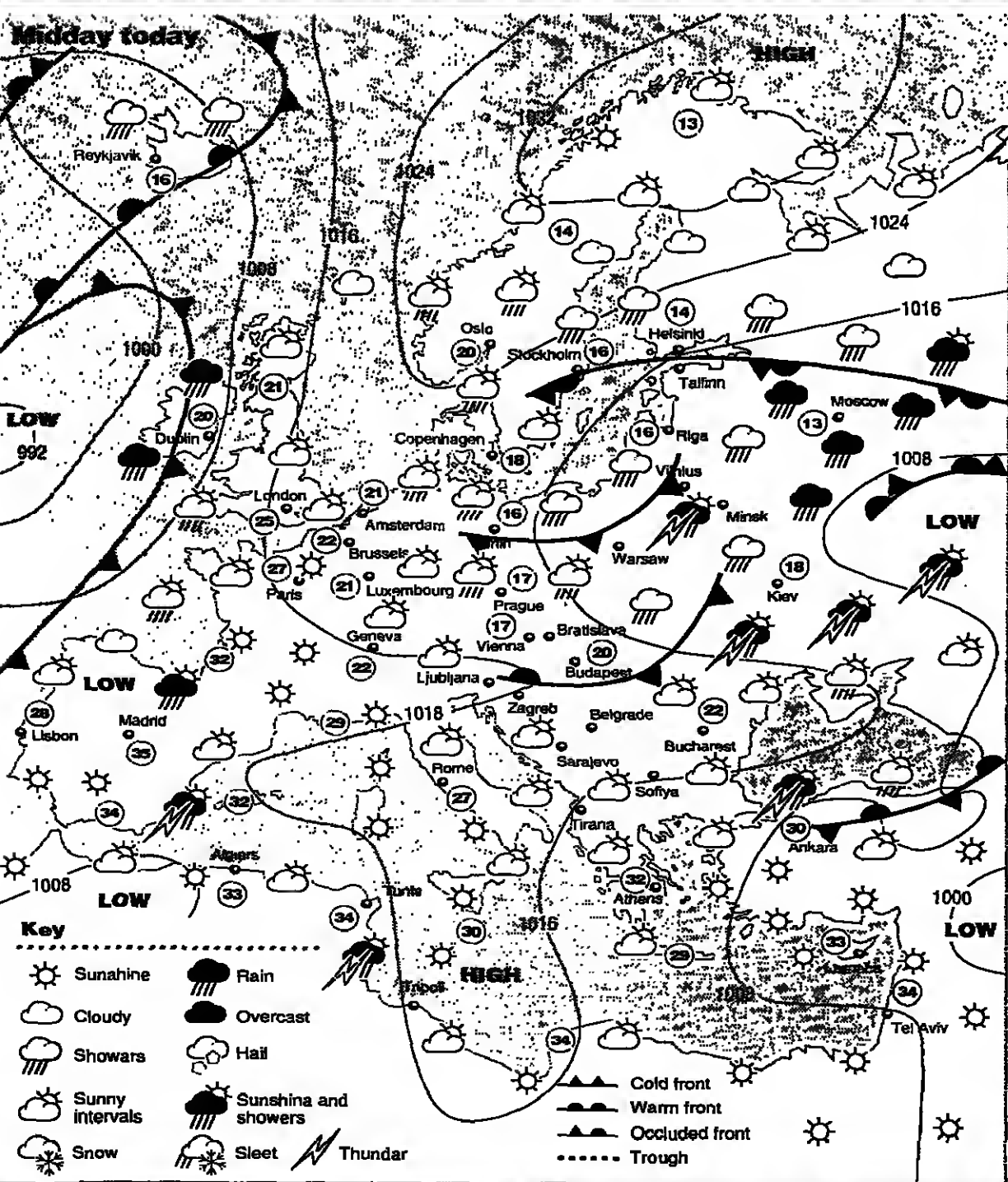
Lindesmith Centre, a New York-based drug policy research institute funded by the financier George Soros.

"Most prominent scientists, medical professionals and policy experts agree that alternatives to cannabis prohibition need to be developed to both prevent further harm and protect individual civil liberties," said Mike Goodman, director of Release.

"Since opinion polls from around the world show growing support for decriminalisation, the purpose of this conference is to determine the best ways to regulate the distribution of cannabis."

Lindesmith Centre director, Ethan Nadelmann, said: "As support for cannabis reform grows, more policy makers are being forced to face the challenge of regulating both the use and the distribution of cannabis. This conference

The weather in Europe



European outlook

Scandinavia:

A dry day in many areas with spells of sunshine. A few showers scattered across southern Norway and Denmark, with showers rain for a while over southern Finland. Highs from 13C in the north to 20C at the warmest in Oslo.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:

Dry in most places with spells of sunshine. There will, however, be a few showers scattered across the north, mostly in the east. Maximum temperatures will range between 19 and 22C.

France:

A mostly dry day with plenty of sunshine. However, clouds will build up in the north-west, with showers possibly breaking out across Brittany later as the wind increases. A thundery shower is possible around the Massif Central in the evening. Highs from 23C in the south to 29C in the north.

Spain and Portugal:

Hot and sunny in most areas, although northern coasts of Spain will be cooler and rather cloudy for a while. Thundery showers may break over the northern Spanish mountains and locally in some eastern areas this evening. Highs ranging from 29C in Galicia to 35C in Madrid.

Italy:

Staying dry with long sunny spells. Highs generally between 25 and 30C, cooler in the north and around the coast. However, on Sicily and Sardinia the temperature may touch 35C.

Dry everywhere with some fairly lengthy sunny spells but it will become breezy through the Aegean. Hot inland with highs of 30 to 32C but 27-29C on the coasts and islands.

Around the world

Yesterday's highlights

Algeria	24-28 F	London	11-15 F	21-27 F
Amsterdam	11-15 F	Los Angeles	21-27 F	21-27 F
Antwerp	11-15 F	Madrid	11-15 F	11-15 F
Berlin	11-15 F	Moscow	11-15 F	11-15 F
Bombay	24-30 F	Mumbai	24-30 F	24-30 F
Buenos Aires	18-24 F	New York	21-27 F	21-27 F
Cairo	21-27 F	Osaka	24-30 F	24-30 F
Cape Town	18-24 F	Paris	11-15 F	11-15 F
Chennai	24-30 F	Perth	11-15 F	11-15 F
Columbus	18-24 F	Rangoon	24-30 F	24-30 F
Dallas	21-27 F	Rio de Janeiro	21-27 F	21-27 F
Delhi	24-30 F	Singapore	24-30 F	24-30 F
Dubai	24-30 F	Sydney	21-27 F	21-27 F
Frankfurt	11-15 F	Taipei	24-30 F	24-30 F
Glasgow	11-15 F	Tokyo	24-30 F	24-30 F
Hamburg	11-15 F	Ulaanbaatar	11-15 F	11-15 F
Harbin	11-15 F	Washington DC	21-27 F	21-27 F
Hong Kong	24-30 F	Wellington	11-15 F	11-15 F
London	11-15 F	Zurich	11-15 F	11-15 F

Television and radio

BBC 1

8.00 News; Regional News and Weather; 8.25 Children's; 8.30 Sports; 8.45 News; 9.00 News; 9.15 News; 9.30 News; 9.45 News; 10.00 News; 10.15 News; 10.30 News; 10.45 News; 11.00 News; 11.15 News; 11.30 News; 11.45 News; 12.00 News; 12.15 News; 12.30 News; 12.45 News; 1.00 News; 1.15 News; 1.30 News; 1.45 News; 2.00 News; 2.15 News; 2.30 News; 2.45 News; 3.00 News; 3.15 News; 3.30 News; 3.45 News; 4.00 News; 4.15 News; 4.30 News; 4.45 News; 5.00 News; 5.15 News; 5.30 News; 5.45 News; 6.00 News; 6.15 News; 6.30 News; 6.45 News; 7.00 News; 7.15 News; 7.30 News; 7.45 News; 8.00 News; 8.15 News; 8.30 News; 8.45 News; 9.00 News; 9.15 News; 9.30 News; 9.45 News; 10.00 News; 10.15 News; 10.30 News; 10.45 News; 11.00 News; 11.15 News; 11.30 News; 11.45 News; 12.00 News; 12.15 News; 12.30 News; 12.45 News; 1.00 News; 1.15 News; 1.30 News; 1.45 News; 2.00 News; 2.15 News; 2.30 News; 2.45 News; 3.00 News; 3.15 News; 3.30 News; 3.45 News; 4.00 News; 4.15 News; 4.30 News; 4.45 News; 5.00 News; 5.15 News; 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The graveyard of PanAm 103



The cockpit of PanAm 103 lying against one of the Boeing 747's giant engines in a Lincolnshire scrapyard. Nearby is part of a tail fin. Under Scottish law the breaker's yard owner is not allowed to dispose of the wreckage until the case closes

Wreckage of Lockerbie jet lies in Lincolnshire scrapyard

Rory Carroll

AT THE end of a Lincolnshire country lane marked "private", weeds coil around 350 tonnes of white and blue metal strewn over a field which has become the graveyard of PanAm Flight 103, bombed out of the sky over Lockerbie.

Moss covers the aircraft's cockpit, which is lying on its side among the debris, propped against one of the Boeing 747's giant engines. Nearby is part of a tail-fin. PanAm's livery is fading, but

Investigators spent weeks gathering 350 tonnes of debris within an 80-mile radius

its blue globe logo remains visible. Under Scottish law the breaker's yard owner is not allowed to dispose of the wreckage until the case closes. Last week Libya indicated that it may hand over two men suspected of planting the bomb, which blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie at 7.02pm on December 21, 1988, killing all 259 passengers and crew, as well as 11 people on the ground. Defence and prosecution teams may need to view the wreckage of the airliner as evidence. It was transported to the yard from an army base at Longtown near Carlisle by a fleet of eight trucks in 1989.

The destination was not publicised to prevent sightseers gathering.

Freight containers ring the field, which is around 1,000 square feet. In some places the debris is piled 10 feet high. Bushes and trees sprout between the pieces of silver grey aluminium wreckage.

The cockpit's interior is said to be largely intact, with instrument panels, dials and the pilot's joystick all in place. Rain and time have discoloured the exterior.

The forward compartment, where the bomb exploded, has been reconstructed and stored at a hangar in Farnborough, Hampshire.

Also in the field is a helicopter which has broken in half, as well as the fuselages of smaller aircraft.

Flight 103 broke into pieces at 31,000 feet before plunging to earth. The nose and cockpit landed in a field almost three miles from Lockerbie. A wing demolished 21 buildings in the town's Sherwood Crescent.

Investigators spent weeks gathering the more than 350 tonnes of debris scattered within an 80 mile radius. Each piece was taken to the army base at Longtown where 1,200 significant items were catalogued.

The breaker's yard owner was at first paid by insurers, but since PanAm went bankrupt the estimated \$1,000 monthly bill has been paid by Dumfries and Galloway police.

The plane was en route from London Heathrow to New York's Kennedy Airport when the bomb exploded. An investigation concluded that it was made of Semtex and hidden in a Toshiba cassette recorder, carried in a brown Samsonite suitcase. Libya has refused to send



The aircraft cockpit after the crash at Lockerbie in 1988 (above). Lamen Khalifa Fimah (left) and Abdel Basset al-Meghrabi may soon face trial in the Netherlands

two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali Mohamed al-Meghrabi and Lamen Khalifa Fimah, to Scotland for trial. However, last week Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, said he had no objections to handing over the two suspects to be tried in the Netherlands under Scottish law and by Scottish judges. Previously Libya had insisted on an international panel of judges.

Speaking from Tripoli in an interview with CNN, Colonel Gaddafi said: "Of course Libya is ready to talk directly... more details must be clear." Although he said Libya attached no conditions, Colonel Gaddafi repeatedly mentioned possible "tricks" by the US, Britain or the United Nations Security Council, and that he was not sure "America and the UN have good intentions to solve this problem".

He also insisted that sanctions imposed on Libya must be lifted as soon as agreement on the trial procedures was reached. However, on Friday the Libyan leader qualified his position, rejecting demands that the suspects should be handed over immediately. He told Qatar's al-Jazeera television channel that the US was trying to rush Libya.

"The word 'immediately' does not apply to Libya," he said. "If they want to act nervously, let them do so. We are not ready to witness confusion or send people without guarantees. We need [to have] negotiations and we need to sign an accord with international guarantees that will be sponsored by the UN secretary-general." Colonel Gaddafi concluded.

Prince asks SNP for talks

Gerard Seenan

THE Prince of Wales has asked for a meeting with the leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party over concerns in royal circles that the rise of nationalism could prelude the fall of the monarchy in Scotland.

Alex Salmond was approached by the prince's office some time ago, but no date has been set for a meeting. It is understood the royal family are worried they may be seen as ignoring Scotland or using it just as a place to hide from publicity.

Although the SNP officially favours retaining the monarchy, albeit on a reformed and pared down basis, it has a strongly republican wing led by the Perth and Kinross MP, Roseanna Cunningham.

At its conference last year the SNP committed itself to a referendum on the future of the royal family shortly after independence. However, a motion committing the party to campaign for an elected head

of state in the referendum was only defeated after some deft political manoeuvring by Mr Salmond and the former deputy leader Allan McCartney, who died last week.

Mr Salmond's commitment to the monarchy as head of state in Scotland is thought to privately annoy some senior colleagues, but they know that even in Scotland — which has marked republican sympathies — it could be politically inexpedient to say so publicly.

A spokesman for the SNP said Mr Salmond looked forward to reassuring the Prince of Wales that the royals had nothing to fear from a national government. "Our position on this is absolutely clear. We will campaign for a reformed and pared down monarchy subject to constraints of a written constitution."

"Everyone in the party will stand by that line, but it is up to the people of Scotland to decide what we want in the referendum we will put before them."

However, it is extremely

unlikely that the republicans in the SNP will be seen campaigning for the retention of any form of monarchy. Mrs Cunningham, who refused to tone down her republican views in the story by-election campaign that took her to Parliament, was unavailable for comment last night.

'It is up to the people of Scotland to decide what they want in a referendum'

The prince's approach to Mr Salmond is likely to be seen in some circles as meddling in politics, although no party would say it officially last night.

The rise of nationalism in Scotland — from a kilted fringe to the real alternative to Labour — and its consequences for the monarchy are

sure to have been discussed between the Queen and Mr Blair at Balmoral this weekend.

Scottish Labour are becoming increasingly anxious over the lacklustre (and the nationalists' extraordinary) performance in Scottish opinion polls. Mr Blair is worried Scots are beginning to feel their needs are being ignored or overlooked — a concern seemingly shared by the royal family.

But if Mr Salmond has his way, the monarchy, if not Labour, will be welcome in an independent Scotland. In the latest edition of Newsweek he reaffirmed his party's commitment to the royal family.

"We have no intention of throwing away the social ties that have been built up over 400 years since the crowns of England and Scotland were united," he said.

Such a view will almost certainly be in the party's manifesto for the Scottish parliamentary elections. But whether it is openly supported after that is another matter.

Alarm at rush for anti-terror bill

Michael White and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government last night was facing growing uneasiness over its anti-terrorism package after MPs learned that the controversial bill will not be published until Wednesday morning, only hours before the Commons meets in special session to pass it into law.

With cross-party support promised by William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, there is no doubt that ministers will obtain a thumping majority for legislation to make it easier to convict members of banned organisations like the Real IRA — and to broaden the scope for criminal charges against groups planning terrorist activities around the world.

Ministers are playing down claims that they have made a concession to would-be rebels in saying the measure will have to be renewed annually.

like most current emergency legislation. "It would be surprising if it wasn't renewable every year," said one official. "The Irish Dail also returns this week for its emergency law-making. But Tony Blair's determination to smash the rampant militants of the Real IRA will be achieved at a political price in the Commons — and in the Lords on Thursday."

Labour's former Northern Ireland spokesman Kevin McNamara confirmed that he is tabling a reasoned amendment to enable MPs in all parties who share his doubts to vote against the bill, not least because it may prove counterproductive, undermining support for the Good Friday Agreement and boosting hardliners on both sides.

Labour MPs Harry Barnes, Gerry Bermingham, and even senior loyalists like Donald Anderson have been voicing concern, as did the Liberal Democrat peer Lord Russell.

How wide the revolt will spread is unclear. Leftwinger David Winnick last night predicted most Labour MPs would swallow their doubts.

"I don't know who the other rebels are; I am acting only for myself," said Mr McNamara, MP for Hull North. He voiced widely shared fears that, in the wake of the Omagh bombing, MPs are being bounced into supporting ill-considered measures.

"They are still drawing [the bill] up, operating on the hoof under pressure from one side or another," he said.

The Lib Dem defence spokesman, Mercedes Campbell, said at least a week should have been allowed between publication and legislation.

The "draconian" core of the measure is to allow conviction on the word of a senior policeman and inferences to be drawn from exercising the right of silence.

One reason for the rush is President Clinton's visit to Ireland on Thursday, though Mr

McNamara claimed that US support for the Anglo-Irish curbs has been muted because they would breach Americans' own Fifth Amendment, against self-incrimination.

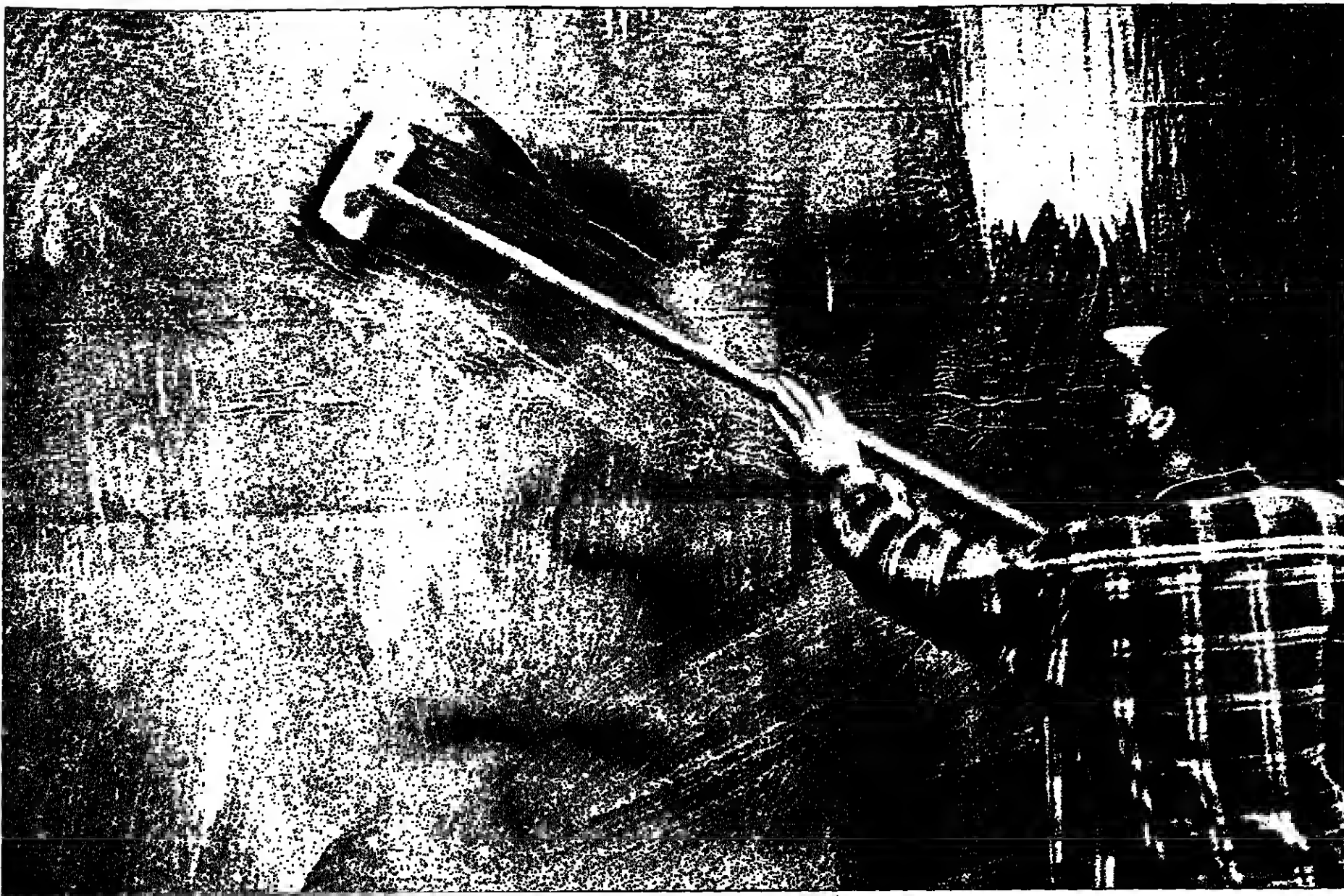
The catch-all clause to curb London-based terrorism affecting other countries will be extended to include conspiracy to engage in any serious offence abroad. Whitehall sources confirmed yesterday.

When Mr Blair unveiled details in Omagh last week, it scarcely noticed that the Government has seized the opportunity to broaden the measure to cover drug trafficking, for example, and paedophiles.

Government lawyers have warned ministers it will be difficult to prove prosecution claims that conspiracy in Britain — in robberies, for example — is related to foreign terrorist groups.

The Government hopes this approach will deflect criticism that it is concerned only with political opponents of foreign regimes.

Pre-poll gloom in Germany



As September 27 looms, Helmut Kohl posters go up in Hanover and all over Germany, while Gerhard Schröder (below) works the south

The give-us-a-job election

In just a month Germans vote for what they hope will be better times. But in the industrial town of Siegen Ian Traynor finds few who believe their wishes will come true, under either the country's political father figure, Helmut Kohl, or his rival

WERNER smiles sourly and rolls another cigarette as he recalls Siegen's better times when he was a boy: jobs were plentiful, elections were about real choices, and this industrial town of 120,000 occupied a proud place in the German economic miracle. It is all a fading memory, like an old black-and-white childhood snapshot.

The two statues dominating the centre of this hilly town in the heartland of western Germany encourage Werner's nostalgia. The twin bronzes depict a miner and a foundryman, celebrating labour as its own reward and evoking an era of work, security and consensus.

Werner, too, is a foundryman, a dying breed in Siegen. Since he was 15, he has worked the furnaces at the Krupp steelworks outside the Westphalian town, about 50 miles east of Bonn, and still clings to his job 24 years later.

"When I started there from school, there were 6,500 at the plant. Now there are 225. It's not the same." Not in Germany. Fearful for the future of its hugely successful wel-

fare state, groping to make sense of its place and identity in a transformed Europe, Germany goes to the polls in exactly one month to return a verdict on Helmut Kohl's 16 years as chancellor.

With unemployment remaining higher than 4 million for the past two years — the highest levels since the 1930s — there is no doubt what the biggest election issue is for the 60 million voters, 80-90 per cent of whom traditionally make the Sunday trek to the ballot box.

The annual index of German angst levels issued last week — a survey called Germans' Fears done each year by a Munich insurance company — put general unemployment at the top of the league table. Dread of losing one's own job was in third place. A rising cost of living and anxiety about poverty in old age also featured strongly.

"Jobs and welfare are easily the main issues," says Dieter Pfau, aged 38, a former typesetter who is now a mature student of history. "But I'm very disappointed by this election campaign. It's the Americanisation, the glitz and the lack of substance. The differ-

ences between the parties have melted away. It used to be that when you went to vote, you voted between two different directions. No longer."

It is a common sentiment, a lament for the passing of old certainties, bewilderment at the bland and easy soundbites

bearing vague and centrist, declaring the end of ideology and claiming that he will rule Germany much in the manner of Mr Kohl, only better.

Anton Janesch, a Siegen gent's clothing outfitter, is voting for Mr Kohl as he has done in the past five elec-

hear, that's all we get. I'm sick of false promises, from Kohl or Schröder. We need a real change of policy in this country, more for jobs, more for the welfare system, more for the family, more child benefit. Everything the government does is for the entrepreneurs, nothing for ordinary people."

But like possibly a majority of core SPD voters, Ms Roth is deeply suspicious of Mr Schröder. "The New Centre? What's that supposed to be? If Schröder wins, maybe the left wing of the party will recover ... but Schröder won't be easy to control."

Werner, the foundryman (who does not want to give his full name), used to support the Social Democrats or the Greens, but Mr Schröder has lost his vote, while the environmentalist Greens have joined the establishment.

"It's just all money and power nowadays, isn't it? That's all this election is about," he grumbles. "Kohl? He's finished, and not before time. But Schröder? He just wants to line his pockets."

So he will not bother to vote. "Of course I'm going to vote. But this time, for the first time, I'm voting for the PDS, the former East German communists who have almost no support in western Germany."

With unemployment by far the single biggest issue, Mr Kohl, lagging in the opinion polls, is pinning his hopes on a late recovery of the jobless figures to bring them below the 4 million level before September 27, while Mr Schröder tells rally after rally that his future government should be judged on one criterion alone, its jobs record.

This does not really wash in Siegen, where the two bronze workers on the main square evoke a halcyon past but seem a cruel commentary on Germany in 1998.



The challenger
Gerhard Schröder may win but is viewed with suspicion by all: 'He just wants to line his pockets'

'The New Centre? What's that?'
'Schröder is charming. But the SPD can't manage money'

of populist television politics in a campaign where the candidates are ruled by negatives — don't trip up, and don't say anything that might be construed as offensive to the voter's sensibilities.

The main reason for the confusion over what differentiates the two big parties, the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), is the strategy of Gerhard Schröder, Mr Kohl's challenger and the man tipped to be next chancellor — a scheme aimed at attracting the swing vote, stealing some of Mr Kohl's traditional support and cruising to power on the backs of "the New Centre".

While Mr Kohl futilely seeks to polarise the election and paint the Social Democrats as closet leftwing extremists, Mr Schröder has been more successful by ap-

pearing vague and centrist, declaring the end of ideology and claiming that he will rule Germany much in the manner of Mr Kohl, only better.

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Howard calls poll before Asia crisis hits Australia hard

Christopher Zeun in Sydney

PAULINE HANSON and her anti-immigration One Nation Party will face their first test of national support on October 3 after the prime minister, John Howard, yesterday called an early general election in Australia.

Mr Howard's conservative Liberal-National coalition has turned the A\$10.5 billion (\$3.6 billion) deficit it inherited in 1996 into a surplus, despite the Asian crisis.

But the effects are starting to hurt Australian exports and tourism. Rather than wait until next May, when the constitution would have obliged him to call an election, Mr Howard has chosen to go to the country before the economy is harder hit by the Asian downturn.

The prime minister is pinning his hopes of defending the conservative coalition's large majority on a plan to introduce a 10 per cent VAT-style tax on goods and services, while cutting other taxes, including income tax.

"In the area of taxation we have a plan for the nation's future," he said. "Labour has a series of promises to buy votes."

Mr Howard believes the election will be fought over economic management and taxation reform. Kim Beazley, who leads the opposition Labour Party, insists the issues will range far wider and include health, unemployment and the threat that One Nation could hold the balance of power in parliament.

Both leaders have said they would not join forces with Ms Hanson to form a government. But that resolve may be put to the test after its surprise showing in the recent Queensland state poll. One Nation is expected to stand

candidates in most of the lower house's 148 seats.

"The battle lines are drawn and we're just rearing to go," declared Ms Hanson, who has tapped a rich vein of voter discontent with her anti-Asian and anti-Aboriginal xenophobia.

But because of a redistribution, the independent MP has been forced to stand in a constituency where pundits say her re-election is far from guaranteed. Mr Beazley, who is a close friend of Tony Blair, is also in danger of losing his marginal seat in Perth owing to support there for One Nation.

He accuses Mr Howard of a failure of leadership for refusing to attack Ms Hanson outright and back multiculturalism and Aboriginal land rights.

"Over the last couple of years, as a people, we have turned in on ourselves in a process which has not been discouraged by this government but we need to emerge from this election with our sense of generosity intact," the Labour leader said.

It is only two and a half years since Labour was swept from office after 13 years by Mr Howard's landslide victory. Labour needs a uniform swing of 4.5 per cent to regain power.

Besides the budget surplus and low inflation, Mr Howard's achievements include tighter gun laws and a promise of a referendum next year on whether Australia should become a republic under a president in 2001.

But the spectre of One Nation, whose policies include restoring tariff protection, liberalising gun laws and introducing zero net migration, continues to hang over his government.

Food riots rife in Indonesia

John Aglionby in Jakarta

INDONESIA yesterday witnessed its sixth consecutive day of widespread unrest, sparked by popular desperation after recent massive price increases.

Analysis is predicting further violence because there is no end in sight to the country's economic crisis and people are dissatisfied with the failure of President B. J. Habibie to control prices since he took over from the autocratic Suharto as Indonesia's leader in May.

In several towns across Java soldiers have been ordered to shoot to kill after mobs of starving people attacked and burned rice mills, plantations and shops. In North Sumatra, troops shot one man dead on Wednesday.

A sizeable proportion of the rioters are women and children in search of rice, flour, cooking oil and other essentials.

Many of those looting mills, shops and warehouses say that their daily wages will no longer buy a kilogram (2.2 lbs) of rice. In the past few weeks the price of the country's staple has almost doubled, to sell at 5,000 rupiahs (30 pence) a kilogram, only 300 rupiahs less than the daily minimum wage.

More than 40 per cent of Indonesians are living in poverty, earning less than the minimum wage, and it is predicted this figure will rise to

more than 50 per cent by next year.

Major-General Joko Subroto, the military commander in east Java, the area worst hit by the popular disturbances, said troops had been told to shoot rioters if warnings to disperse went unheeded.

Police commanders said the unrest was "purely criminal", but many observers believe the food crisis is now so acute nationwide anarchy may not be preventable.

Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan promised last month to send more than 1.2 million tonnes of rice to Indonesia as soft loans, but all three deals have fallen through.

An agriculture expert, Thoby Mutis, said yesterday that the crisis is unlikely to be resolved soon because "there are insufficient supplies, the distribution system is not functioning and so many government officials stink of corruption."

He said that until May, distribution was controlled by ethnic Chinese, but there is a vacuum because most Chinese fled in the riots and have not been replaced."

One Western financier said the government would find it very expensive to buy rice from overseas. "Everyone knows Indonesia is desperate and so they are jacking the prices up. But Habibie has little choice if he does not want the whole country to erupt."

Nigel Slater's free recipe card introduces a sumptuous dish of sausages with double cream.

The Observer

Starting this Sunday in the Observer enjoy extra helpings of Nigel Slater with extracts from his new book, 'Real Food', and 6 weeks of free recipe cards.

Turkey's new hard man snubs Kurds

Chris Morris in Ankara

TURKEY marked the 70th anniversary of its war of independence yesterday with a new military high command and the swift rejection of a ceasefire offer from Kurdish rebels.

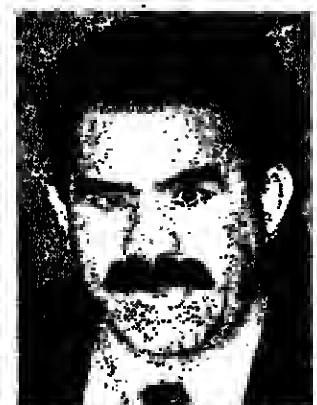
In a television interview on Friday night, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan, announced a unilateral ceasefire, to begin tomorrow.

Kurdish sources said it was to coincide with the transfer of power at the top of the Turkish military. The land forces commander, General Hüseyin Kivrikoğlu, has taken over as the chief of the general staff, making him one of Turkey's most powerful men.

The military opposes negotiations with the PKK after a 14-year war fought with extreme brutality. The PKK is regarded as a terrorist group with little public support.



No dialogue: General Hüseyin Kivrikoğlu, Turkey's new army chief of staff (left), shows no inclination to respond to the goodwill gesture of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan



The prime minister, Mesut Yılmaz, dismissed Mr Ocalan's offer of talks and urged the rebel leader to surrender.

The PKK has modified its demand for a separate state and says it is prepared to accept a political solution within Turkey's borders.

Some European Union

east, is almost over, though clashes have continued.

Gen Kivrikoğlu said at his inauguration that the struggle against terrorism would go on. But the rise of political Islam is seen as a bigger security threat.

There had been suggestions in the media that Gen Kivrikoğlu would take a softer line against Islamic radicals, but sources close to the military dismiss these claims.

The new chief of staff insisted: "It is our first duty to be vigilant against those who want to introduce Islamic sharia laws and darken the future of our country."

There were three military coups in Turkey between 1960 and 1980, but now intervention is a more subtle affair. In 1997 the military forced Turkey's first Islamist-led government out of office, using political and legal pressure.

Turkey's Western allies would like to see reform, giving civilians more control over the military. But the generals are unmoved.

Since the 1980 coup they have a constitutional mandate to protect the republic from internal threat.

Gen Kivrikoğlu inherits Turkey's difficult relations with its NATO ally Greece. Territorial disputes in the Aegean Sea and over Cyprus have even led to talk of war.

"He will work through diplomatic channels first," said Metehan Demir of Hürriyet newspaper. "But there is a doctrine in the Turkish military that it must always be ready for a possible war with Greece."

Turkey has a massive military modernisation programme, with multi-billion-pound tenders out for armed attack helicopters, early warning aircraft and a new generation of battle tanks.

Despite — or because of — its high profile, the military remains the most popular institution in the country. "It is the apple of our eye," said President Süleyman Demirel on Friday. "It is the cement binding Turkish unity."

Comment

e-mail

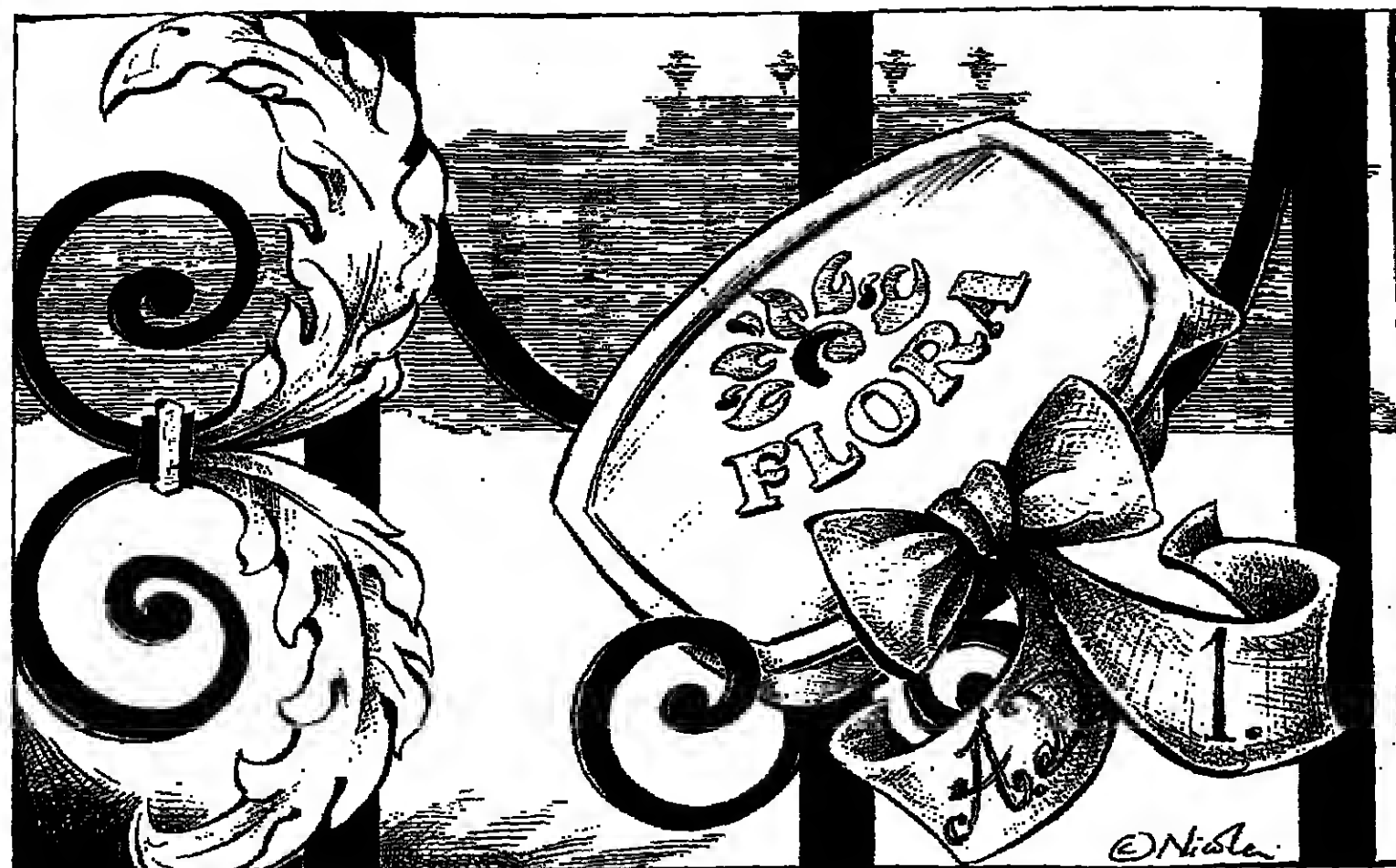
Martin Walker
@Brussels

OUR local bistro was doing the usual brisk lunchtime trade yesterday, offering a delicious *plat du jour* of potage, omelette and chips and salad: 360 francs, about six quid. Christine cooks and serves. She used to be married to Monsieur Robert, who ran the place and enlivened the walls with his cheerful paintings until this Easter. He sold the bar-bistro to Marc, one of his regular customers who had just come into a small inheritance.

Marc now runs it. Christine still cooks, and Monsieur Robert and Marc play cards every night with the guards coming off-duty from the local prison. Just like they always did. Christine's prices and menus of mussels and steak and chips have not changed. It's a small place, half a dozen tables, and customers eat the same dishes as Marc and Christine cook for themselves. But my wife says she doesn't know how Christine serves such meals at such low prices, and when I asked her, Christine replied: "Don't you get the pub?"

She meant the public. Each weekend in Brussels, three glossy pamphlets are dropped through our front door, listing the special offers and prices at the three big local supermarkets. This week, the chain called GB is offering six bottles of rosé wine for the price of four, which works out at seven quid for the half price. Chicken thighs are £1.50 a kilo, and 24 cans of Stella Artois cost four quid. Round the corner, the Match chain is offering a pork roast at three quid a kilo, and apples and grapefruit at just under a pound a kilo. French Brie was half price, £4.20 a kilo. The recent fuss about Britain's high supermarket prices provoked the companies to boast of their special offers. Consumers who shop around can get bargains in Britain. But short of trailing round the shops, how do they find out in the local newspapers run double-page spreads of supermarket ads with loss-leader prices, and in Belgium, the pamphlets are stuffed through the door.

This European single market is a curious beast. German supermarket prices are close to British ones, and the country explains this through the social wage, taxes driving up prices by adding 43 per cent to the salary costs. But Belgium has a social wage of 47 per cent, yet still manages to offer low prices. And that's because Britain, with a social wage at 28 per cent, manages to get away with charging more. Britain is a poorer country, with a national income per head 15 per cent lower than that of Belgium, according to the latest figures from Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. The scandal of British car prices, which the EU Commission reports to be an average 30-40 per cent higher than in Europe, has been known for years. But it seems to persist, despite all the efforts of cunning importers and the Consumers Association. "I went to England for a week last year. Never again, it was too expensive," said Christine yesterday. "I don't know how you all afford to live there."



Will New Labour end private medical practice on public time?

Polly Toynbee



WAITING lists have risen inexorably since the National Health Service began. It's the paradox of an ever healthier nation — the more new treatments, the more demand to be treated. Cutting lists, says one manager, is "trying to defy the laws of gravity". Yet the Government says the impossible has to be done. Last week, numbers waiting for operations did turn down, with a bit of fiddling, clearing out of dubious cases and buying extra sessions in private hospitals. One ophthalmologist tells me he's just done 60 quick cases under management orders to do the zits (easy ones); all his long hard cases are still waiting. So that's 45,000 down, but still 107,000 cut by March next year and 207,000 by the next election — cuts that have to stay cut forever. Defying gravity indeed.

But there is one solution no minister dares mention — or at least not in public. It's what consultants do with their time. Are some spending too much of it away from the NHS tending to private patients? To say yes sounds so Old Labour that the blood drains out of political faces as they whisper it, but now they do. It's not a matter of ideology, or anti-private medicine socialism, but something has to be done about those consultants who give too little time to the NHS.

The consultants' contract pays them a basic £97,000, not fat cat money for the hard years of training. But many consultants are on a "maximum part time" contract, paid slightly less than that (ten-eleven), allowing them to do as much private practice as they like. This was

Nye Bevan's historic compromise when he couldn't find the money to match what top doctors were earning in the private sector. The contract still retains its crucial, if deliberately vague, proviso that all doctors must give "substantially the whole of their time" to the NHS. What does that mean? Consultants' job plans usually specify only 5-7 half-days a week. The idea is that the rest of their time is spent on letters, management, teaching and the like. But it's time many spend partly in private practice.

Take the case of Mr K, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon in East London. He's a good doctor who's technically fulfilling his NHS contract (just). But he's giving "substantially most of his time to the NHS". The answer has to be no. He has a very long NHS waiting list, but the patients on it get only five sessions from him a week. He spends six sessions in private practice.

I called his private consulting rooms to make an appointment for an imaginary nephew's tonsils. No problem. I could have an appointment with him at a private hospital on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning, or on Saturday morning. He operates privately on Thursday evenings. When is he in the NHS? On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and only alternate Friday mornings. How long would I have to wait for an NHS appointment? Mr K has just two emergency appointments left before Christmas, and anything non-urgent will be next year. After waiting for that out-patient appointment, Mr K's waiting list for surgery is

another six months. There can be little doubt that if Mr K spent more time in the NHS, his waiting list could be halved.

How typical is he? The BMA says there are always shirkers in any professional field. It's not that Mr K is lazy, just a bit greedy. Surgeons do routinely spend two half days a week in private practice, many spend more. There's a huge variation in surgeons' NHS productivity, even among those with identical case mixes. Research suggests a third of surgeons do too little, a third do well, and a third do vastly more work than they are contracted for.

If so, then getting tough with doctors like Mr K would cut a swathe through waiting lists. But dare the government antagonise the doctors just when they most need their co-operation? Mr K's manager says he would dearly like more power to deal with doctors not putting their weight in the NHS — but he'd be anxious about any general move that might offend his many over-worked consultants, the geriatricians and psychiatrists who work twice the hours they're contracted for.

Appearing sometimes to inhabit another planet, the BMA has just asked the government for a new consultants' contract to allow them to do yet more private practice. So far they've had no reply. While ministers consider what strategy to adopt, is this a prime chance to re-open the whole question of consultant hours? Some wise old departmental birds remember Barbara Castle's disastrous attempt to remove pay beds from the NHS, when

the doctors won hands down. Should the government go for a confrontation with the bad apples, or will waiting lists come down faster by oiling all consultants' wheels and keeping them happy?

One surgeon put it: "Next Saturday I've cancelled my private out-patient clinic to do an extra NHS operating list. They are paying me a lot less than I'd earn in my private clinic, but I'll do it, although I don't have to. And I don't think it needs doing. I'm doing minor cases, chosen by managers, including one non-urgent only on the list for a week. This is politicking, not medicine. I don't feel morally committed to pointless list reduction and if they attack us, I won't do it."

One gynaecologist told me, with brutal honesty, that he could easily inflate or decrease his NHS waiting list by 20 per cent either way and no manager would dare challenge his clinical judgment, so they had better not try interfering with his private practice.

In reply, sabbies are being rattled inside the Department of Health. Confronting the volume of private practice done on NHS time is being openly discussed in an atmosphere of increasing anxiety over hitting the waiting list target, let alone keeping it down for ever. Among many health experts, there's a growing belief that permanent waiting list reductions can't be delivered without getting a grip on under-performing consultants. It doesn't mean attacking private practice ideologically, but it does mean making sure the NHS gets good value for all its salaries. Will New Labour dare do anything so Old?

Take me to your leader

Peter Preston



CAN'T win, won't win. Margaret Thatcher's lumpy prophecies aren't a news story, for they merely proclaim the obvious. The Conservatives have lost the next election already. And the question beginning to absorb the erstwhile "natural party of government" — is who's to blame?

Mrs T, unwithered by age or doubt, finds that easy. Anybody but her. Had she still ruled over Downing Street, then victories would have rolled unceasingly forth. Since the unmentioned Hague is her successor, he naturally carries the ultimate can. But there are other later-in-candidate dates for opprobrium — like "the Three Stooges, yesterday's nobodies, candidates for the Monster Raving Loony Party (Brussels branch)".

So much, then, for Michael Heseltine, Stephen Dorrell and Kenneth Clarke. Seventeen months ago, they were three of the Tories' biggest hitters; but these days the editor of Britain's most influential paper (the Sun) swipes them effortlessly into oblivion. "At 65, Hezza should tend the plants in his mansion; Dorrell should search for his lost charisma — and Clarke should concentrate on his fat cat directorships."

Inevitably we're talking Europe again: the fitch the Conservatives have to keep scratching. The Stooges are apparently planning a bit of a Bournemouth conference demo. So, even before August's over, the saps are rising. But there is one cool and necessary point that affects Tory fortunes every day of the year: a by-product of the Euro-divide which underpins Lady Thatcher's prediction.

Simply: William Hague needs what the Telegraph calls "last left". He needs Heseltine's growing gravitas. He needs Dorrell's thoughtfulness. David Curry's sharp integrity and Damian Green's dispatch box promise. But, most of all, he needs Ken Clarke. He is lost without him, and will keep on losing.

None of this worries Ken. He came within a whisker of the leadership himself last year, but it didn't quite happen: so he is banking a little cash, drinking a little beer, and enjoying himself. If he thinks the Tory line on Europe is dotty, then he can grin and shrug and say so. He does not appear to be overburdened with regret. He just carries on. Meanwhile, the economy he bequeathed to Gordon Brown does not appear similarly resilient. The plight of the rubble sets stock markets rumbling. Industry order books have emptied. Inflation still keeps the Bank awake at night, and sends its Governor plunging into the property market. The soft landing is looking harder by the moment. Nobody, for all the aspirations, has abolished economic cycles — and this time we're weakening ahead of America, out of sync with both sides of the Atlantic.

Opportunity, in theory, knocks early for Hague. John Major never recovered from the pits of '91-'92. Helmut Kohl will probably pay the same price next month. The stupid economy ditched George Bush and could write off Al Gore's prospects. But who have the Tories got to lead this charge? They began with Peter Lilley, but he was so nice, reasonable and feeble he had to be made deputy leader. They resorted to Francis Maude, who is crisper with the soundment earning a living during the Major calamities; but out of sight, out of mind. Most of the time the Mighty Redwood falls and falls again, berating Brown for the high pound (but not for the tax jumps that could have lowered it).

This is the thinnest of teams. It does not sound, and does not look, as though it could do a better job, or has access to a higher wisdom. It

there is a painful recession, a grateful country won't dream of turning its way.

Here is the pain of the absent Ken. The country, on the polls, wanted him as leader. He was that rarest of modern breeds, a successful character who got out in time. It is, with some justice, his inheritance which gave Gordon Brown his flying start: and, with only a touch less justice, his wonders that will be remembered if things (as they do) go badly wrong. He could complain about mistakes and be half-believed. He could claim he'd have done it better and have tolerable supporting evidence. He would be an opposition's ace in an economic hole.

The gorgeous folly of the Conservative Party is that it might have foreseen all this and positioned itself for recovery the moment the new chancellor's plans began to take — but deliberately chose not to do so. And it shows no sign of realising that mistake. As the chance to scabble back arrives, they're still ratcheting on about Europe: a decision for after the next election, not before.

BY then, Boris Yeltsin will be history; we shall be through the economic downturn and coming out the other side. By then, Labour will be able to fight a referendum and a third election as victors, not vanquished. And Ken Clarke may be back at his mini-mansion, pruning the roses.

There is no sign of the madness ending. Mr Hague has done little but trawl the summer chat shows, telling elaborate jokes for Des O'Connor. His closest aides, unless they're into elaborate jokes too, are pondering a post-Bournemouth party referendum which would be used to top pro-European candidates standing for re-election. Ken's



The Tories have to win back enough ground to remain part of the game

The cattle are standing like statues

Roy Hattersley

LIKE so many of the politicians with whom I spent my later life, the house in which I was brought up faced two ways at once. The back bedroom window opened on to Walsley Common, a square mile of hilly scrub that led to the Derwent Valley, the Peak Park and the Pennines.

From the box room at the front — to which I was relegated when Uncle Syd came back from the war — I could see what I believed to be industrial Sheffield. Bachelors' pea factory and a brewery. To me they embodied the idea of furnaces glowing in the dark and steam hammers giving a little belch before they crashed down on ingots of white hot steel.

My mother, a collier's daughter, was brought up in the Nottinghamshire coal field — part of rural England, as D H Lawrence would have gladly confirmed. She would have

liked me to inhabit an arcadia which was no less fantastical than my romance of heavy industry.

Her hopes were shared, in an even more extreme form, by my grandmother who (bedridden with rheumatoid arthritis) had never looked out of the back window. One day, she wept to think that little Roydie would never see a cow.

I saw thousands of them. It was not possible to play cricket and football on the sloping pitches of South Yorkshire without cursing the cattle which had inhabited the field before play began. However, I have only just begun to find cows attractive. My love affair with steel ended after nine months as a "management trainee", when I decided that far from becoming a captain of industry I would be lucky to be promoted corporal.

But, even before I became a reluctant Londoner, I was half blind to the countryside. All that attracted me in 30 years of exile was the terrain. I longed to lift up

mine eyes to the hills and see limestone against the skyline. The animals did not interest me at all.

Even when I began to return to limestone country for part of each week, all I noticed about the cows was their uncanny resemblance to the farmyard animals which my mother bought me over 60 years ago. Then they began to impose themselves upon my life.

Despite their ruminate reputation, they have become a far more vibrant presence than the hares that suddenly skip through the long grass, the sheep which do seem to be silly (though not in the Miltonian sense of the word) and even the huge buck-rabbit which, having read Waterbury Down, stands on guard outside the highest warren in the hillsides. Cows have character.

I became a student of bovine psychology about a couple of years ago, when my dog — on a lead, as Peak Park regulations require — gave an inquisitive glance

at a straggling heifer. The animal itself did not even twitch. But the herd from which it had been separated began to walk towards us, very slowly.

If they had run, I would have known exactly what to do. I was brought up on the simpler sort of cowboy

How could so many members of the NFU feed their cows on the remains of other cows?

films which always included a cattle stampede. So the dog and I would have crouched behind a convenient border until the thundering hooves and dust storm had passed. But walking towards me seemed more of a reproach than a threat. Hoping to emulate their dignity, we

turned around and sauntered home.

It was respect for the mother's privacy — together with a squeamishness, bred from watching too many episodes of *All Creatures Great And Small* — that made me hurry on last Friday night rather than stop to watch the birth of a pair of late summer twins.

There is a farm, inside our village. The byre — home to two pedigree herds — is immediately across the road from the church. And at 11.30, the lights in the yard outside were blazing. "Another one coming?" I asked waciously. "Another two," answered one of the young men in the knee-deep straw. "The vet's on his way." I did not admit my uncertainty about whether the black and white expectant cow was a Friesian or Charolais.

It took me 36 hours to develop enough nerve to confirm my deduction — based on the evidence that I had a black and white model cow in 1940, long before

Charolais were common in Great Britain. At the time when I casually mentioned the happy family's breed, I was leaning on the yard gate watching in wonder the two long-legged calves gently tiptoeing around their mother. Perhaps I should have been in awe of nature's miracle. But my first thought was prosaic: the point of being biological. How on earth did they fit inside less than two days ago?

My second thought was less mundane. How can some farmers, unlike the owners of our village Friesians and Charolais, confine such creatures in wooden crates with the conscious intention of keeping them anaemic? And how could so many members of the NFU — again, unlike my neighbours — feed their cows on the remains of other cows? I suppose that the answer is that farming is more about profit than aesthetics. I must be careful not to share my mother's fantasy of rural England.

مكتبة الامير

J Morton Boyd

Protector of Scotland

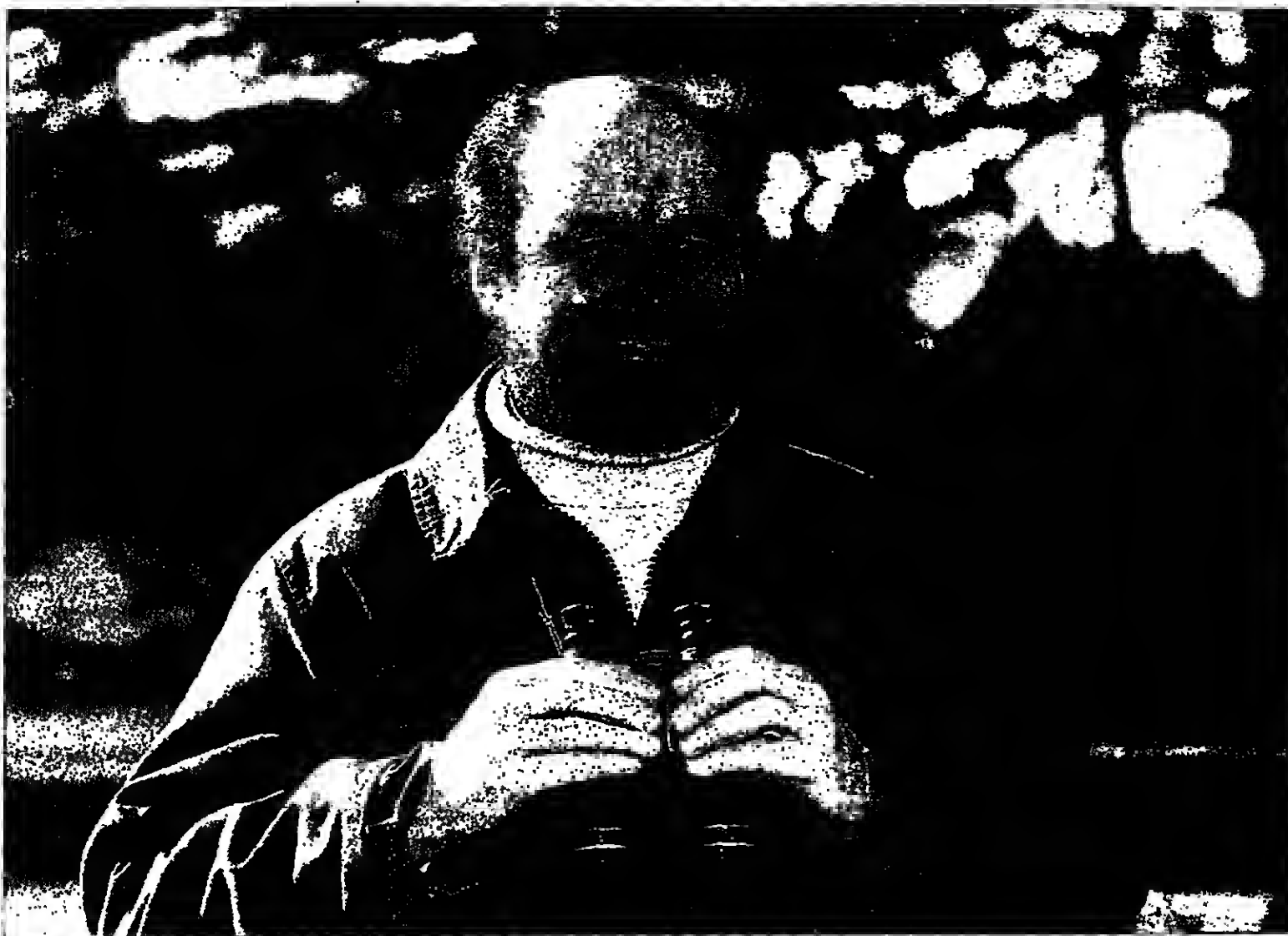
JOHN Morton Boyd, who has died aged 73, was one of Scotland's leading natural historians and conservationists throughout a period which saw environmental interests recognised as a key element of public policy. As the government's most senior conservationist in Scotland from 1971-85, he occupied a key role in that process.

In addition to his role as a public servant, Morton Boyd was a prolific author with much of his work concentrated on the Highlands and Islands. He also travelled widely, often on behalf of the British government, to advise on environmental issues and research areas of outstanding interest.

He was born in Darvel, Ayrshire, the son of a builder. After Kilmarnock Academy, where he displayed a capacity for leadership which was to serve him well in later life, he went to Glasgow University. He initially studied engineering but after reading *A Naturalist on Rona* by Frank Fraser Darling changed direction. The book, a study of the ecology and land use of the Highlands and Islands, was also written by a Chesterfield-born natural historian who became the supreme authority on the region, initiated Morton Boyd's lifelong love affair with the islands of the west.

Service in the RAF from 1943-47 interrupted his studies, but after completing a degree in zoology, he remained at Glasgow to write his doctoral thesis on earthworms, written on the island of Tiree, a place with which he and his family later retained a special affinity.

Morton Boyd joined the Nature Conservancy as a Regional Officer in 1957. In the Kilmochewe area of Wester Ross, he secured a degree of co-operation with landowners in order to introduce a deer management scheme to keep down the marauding numbers — unheard of at that time but now accepted (if not universally implemented) good practice. He also developed a keen expertise in seals and became deeply conversant with the animals and sealife associated with the islands which make up St Kilda.



Far-seeing... Morton Boyd made an enormous contribution to the rich tapestry of Scottish life

Fraser Darling had become his mentor and friend and the two co-authored the second edition of *The Natural History of the Highlands and Islands* in 1964. By then Morton Boyd was also travelling extensively and, as a result of his membership of a Royal Society Expedition to Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean, became concerned about plans to create an RAF staging post there in support of Britain's presence east of Suez. Boyd relayed his concerns to Tam Dalyell MP who then conducted a celebrated, and ultimately successful,

parliamentary campaign to save the giant tortoises of Aldabra. When the Nature Conservancy Council was created in 1974, Morton Boyd became its director in Scotland. This was a watershed in formalising the role of a government agency in advising on all significant matters of land use and economic development. It was also a particularly sensitive time with supporters of the burgeoning offshore oil industry, in areas like Shetland and Easter Ross, impatient of environmental objections to their activities.

Morton Boyd, like Fraser Darling before him, was well aware of the economic and social needs of the region but was generally successful in persuading government to resist short-term exploitation which conflicted with environmental interests. In both administrative and political terms, he was a devoted and dedicated public servant who was not very assertive — unlike her fellow South African Sue McGregor — nor was she a political person. I put her back on to newswriting, just on Sunday evening at first. To put a woman in charge of a main bulletin in those days, I feared, would be seen as a gimmick.

Mandell left ITN before she might have overcome that last hurdle. Her marriage to the actor and radio personality Alan Dell was failing. She became the partner of Martin Gray, a distinguished cameraman, and together they made a number of travel films. On his death some years ago, she retired to her home in Devon.

Barbara Mandell, television newsreader, born 1925; died August 28, 1998

Barbara Mandell

Newsreader's place in history

BARBARA Mandell, who has died aged 73, had the distinction, which in popular legend is regularly bestowed on others, of being the first woman to read the news regularly on television.

Angela Rippon, who first read the BBC news in 1975, is often assumed to have been the trailblazer. Nan Winton, briefly a newscaster in 1960, is fielded by viewers with longer memories. One or two in the BBC West region may even recall a local newsreader, Armine Sandford, from 1957. But Mandell had her own networked midday bulletin on ITN in 1955.

She was a South African who had entered BBC Television in the early 1950s as a news scriptwriter, a now lost art from the days before it was possible to have a reporter in vision speaking from the scene. Her task was to match a plucky commentary to whatever was going on in film inserts. The words were usually delivered by an actor specialising in voice-overs, but when Mandell was recruited by ITN some months ahead of the opening

of the commercial channel, she was allowed to try reading herself.

Aidan Crawley, first editor of ITN, was anxious to make the new service as distinct as possible from the BBC. He defined his newsreaders as "Chataway and Robin Day as newscasters — broadcasters involved in the news."

There were women's items, such as a domestic segment she introduced from a kitchen set, until viewers complained about the unwashed dishes

not just voices. He also wanted more female participation. Mandell's pleasant good looks, open manner and mellifluous voice he thought particularly suited to news-casting, and he asked her to take a screen test.

The outcome was the noon bulletin, which she launched on September 23, ITN's first full day after the grand opening of the night before. These were brave days at ITN, with a very small staff, limited

time programming was even slower. The noon bulletin attracted the smallest audience, and when economies became necessary, it was the first to be scrapped. Mandell returned to scriptwriting, plus some reporting of fashion shows and first nights.

There were also women's interest items, such as a domestic segment which she introduced from a kitchen set, until viewers complained about the unwashed dishes.

In May 1968, Geoffrey Cox, replaced Aidan Crawley. He, too, was impressed by Mandell's skills and personality. "Her scripts were always very clear," he remembers, "and with a nice touch when that was needed. On screen she was not very assertive — unlike her fellow South African Sue McGregor — nor was she a political person. I put her back on to newswriting, just on Sunday evening at first. To put a woman in charge of a main bulletin in those days, I feared, would be seen as a gimmick."

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Barbara Mandell... good looks and a mellifluous voice

F Maurice Speed

Star of the film guides

IT IS probable that every Londoner with a passion for showbusiness has been brought up on one or other of F Maurice Speed's publications. Speed, who has died aged 86, edited the weekly *What's On In London*, the first successful London listings magazine, and with *Film Review*, the annual survey of the year's film releases, he virtually invented the modern film book.

A Londoner himself, the young Speed haunted a Hammermith flat, where he developed a lifelong love of Westerns. He was a prize-winning essayist before he left school. His first job was as an assistant to Edward Martell, the proprietor of *Sunday Referee*.

London Week, which first appeared in 1935, was the brainchild of four university graduates, who envisaged a

British counterpart of the *New Yorker*, but knew nothing about publishing. Martell stepped in to oversee the project and took Speed with him.

The magazine was not a success and changed hands several times, becoming *What's On In London* in 1937. Considered a dead duck, the entire enterprise was dumped into Speed's lap shortly afterwards. He designed the magazine and wrote virtually every page, using several pseudonyms.

He was F Maurice Speed, the film critic; Frederick Deeps, the gossip columnist; and J Lillywhite Hather, the book critic. The format, right down to the Diary of the Week and the unfailingly complimentary restaurant reviews, has remained pretty much unchanged to this day.

Speed used a brief and unhappy period serving with the

Army at Devizes to develop his idea for *Film Review*. The public, starved during the second world war of books in general and film books in particular, snapped up 80,000 copies of the first edition in 1944 and ensured its annual appearance. It went on to influence two generations of film fans and to pave the way for scores of copycat books.

What's On finally went into profit with the revival of tourism at the end of the war. It remained number one in a field of one until the launch of *Time Out* in 1968. For a while there was fierce rivalry between the politically opposed weeklies but eventually they learned to co-exist and have seen off the challenge of several upstarts including *Rich* and *Branson's Event*.

Speed remained *What's On's* editor until 1976 and its film critic until 1982. He sub-



Speed... lover of Westerns

sequently devoted most of his time to *Film Review*, surrendering it reluctantly and making his last contribution in 1986.

He was married twice, first to the actress Lorenza Harris, who survives him; second to Professor Andrée Wilson-Layat.

David McGilivray

(Frederick) Maurice Speed, editor and critic, born October 15, 1911; died August 28, 1997

Zita Barnett

ZITA Barnett, who has died aged 78, made an immense contribution to midwifery and helped it gain a professional standing.

After teacher training, she found her vocation at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary in 1948, inspired, perhaps, by her father, a coalminer, who joined the Royal Army Medical Corps during the first world war and was awarded the Military Medal and mentioned in despatches. Her two sisters also took up nursing.

From Cardiff, Barnett went as staff midwife to the North Devon Infirmary in Barnstaple and then in 1950 to the London Hospital. After another spell in Cardiff she was returned to London as a tutor.

In 1961 she became midwifery tutor at the Sumner Hospital, in what was then Tanganyika. These happy and challenging years sparked an enduring interest in African and world development affairs.

She returned to Wales in

1964 and after tutoring in hospitals in Swansea and Newport, in 1972 she became divisional midwifery officer for the Swansea Health District. Having been secretary of the Welsh board of the Royal College of Midwives, she went on to chair it from 1973-1980 and in 1981 was made vice-president. An outstanding educator and an able administrator, she trained several generations of midwives. She was honoured with an OBE in 1980 and a lifetime of service to others was recognised in 1997 with the Papal award of the Bene Merenti Medal.

A devout Roman Catholic, after retiring in 1980 she devoted much time to church affairs. Barnett faced her final, debilitating illness with the courage and good humour which marked her life. She is survived by her sisters.

Michael Strimpton

Zita Honora Barnett, midwife, born January 24, 1920; died July 22, 1998

Justice Lewis F Powell Jr

Judge who nailed Nixon

IT WAS an irony of history that Lewis F Powell Jr came out against President Nixon during the Watergate affair, for it was Nixon who had pleaded with him to join the United States Supreme Court.

Powell, who has died aged 80, eventually voted for compelling Nixon to hand over incriminating tape recordings, including the "smoking gun", that made resignation or impeachment inevitable. But he also argued privately for setting a higher standard for *subpoena* to Presidents than for others.

Nixon must have regretted his choice. Powell's name came forward for appointment to the court because the Administration was desperate for respectable conservative judges. Southern if possible, but not tarnished with segregationist associations. He eventually yielded to Nixon's plea that he had a "duty, to the South, to the law, to the court, the President and the country".

Powell was never ideologically predictable. He always searched for consensus and often sought to defuse the bitter disputes between liberals and conservatives which split the court under Chief Justice Warren Burger.

Perhaps his most important opinion was that in the watershed 1973 *Bakke* case, which arose out of racial preferences at the University of California's medical school. He brokered a compromise between two bitterly divided factions and came up with a solution that barred strict racial quotas, while allowing race to be taken into account in university admissions and other affirmative action programmes.

Powell came from the old, cultivated southern elite that sought to maintain the South's "traditional way of life" in racial matters, while moved by a mixture of guilt, noblesse oblige and prudence to do away with indefensible and crude discriminations. A patrician moderate, he was chairman of the Richmond School Board at the time of the 1954 *Brown* decision, outlawing school segregation. He kept the schools open despite pressure from segregationists.

Powell passed top out of the Washington and Lee Law School and after a year at the Harvard Law School went into private practice in Richmond. He became a highly successful corporate lawyer and built up his firm to national prominence.

A decorated volunteer during the second world war, he saw combat in the US Army Air Force and as an intelligence officer in Europe and North Africa.



Powell... consensus judge

As well as being President of three major legal bodies, the American Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers, he also sat on the boards of 11 major corporations.

Powell took the pro-choice side on *Roe v Wade*, the leading abortion case. Yet on two other issues he began by taking the conservative side, later admitting that he had been mistaken. He argued for reintroducing the death penalty but later admitted he thought capital punishment should be abolished. Again, in 1986 he agreed with a judge-

Powell came from the old elite that sought to maintain the South's 'traditional way of life' in racial matters

ment by another Justice that the argument that the Constitution protected homosexual behaviour was "at best facetious". Later he told New York University students that he regretted his vote.

In 1987 illness led to retirement. The battle over his successor was one of Washington's fiercest political battles of the past 20 years. Thus, ironically, did the retirement of the consummate moderate and compromiser throw the court back into the bitter ideological quarrels he had made it his business to accommodate.

His wife, Josephine, died in 1986. He is survived by three daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.

Geoffrey Hodgson

Lewis F Powell Jr, lawyer and judge, born September 19, 1917; died August 25, 1998

A Country Diary

OLD WESTMORLAND: Two recent, ambitious rounds on opposite sides of the glorious Howgill Fells embraced two splendid viaducts — disused relics, dramatic in scale, of a former industrial age.

One walk, starting from the towering, 11-arched Lowgill viaduct, wandered gently up Farnham Fell to the lonely, overhanging outcrop, nearly 1,000 feet up, where, almost 350 years ago, George Fox preached to a crowd of more than a thousand people who had walked there from many parts of the North. On our way up the fellside the view across the winding Lune, of the Howgills flooded in morning sunlight, seemed especially intimate and revealing and our return along the banks of the river, a necklace of pools and cascades, an unusual delight.

The second walk started from the quiet, old-world village of Ravenstonedale and took us easily north to the picturesque, wooded ravine of Smardale Gill crossed by the

disused, but splendidly restored, Smardale Gill viaduct and, a mile further north, by the Smardale Viaduct which is in daily use by trains on the Settle to Carlisle railway.

We walked across the disused viaduct and studied its impressive architecture — 90 feet high and stretching for 500 feet across 14 soaring arches. The builders in 1880, manoeuvring these massive stone blocks without modern equipment, must have been giants among men.

But the real highlight of this walk, among many surprises, was the extraordinary profusion of wildflowers of every colour tightly packed along a mile of the former trackway and, urgently busy among the flowers, hundreds of red and brown butterflies.

Rarely, if ever, have I seen such a remarkable natural display of colour in the fells. And we had all these delights to ourselves for we saw nobody on either walk.

HARRY GRIFFIN

Birthdays

Martin Bell, independent MP, 60; Serge Blanco, rugby footballer, 40; Admiral Sir Brian Brown, chairman, King George's Fund for Sailors, 64; Prof Robert Hargrave, astronomer, 82; Ann Coffey, Labour MP, 82; James Coburn, actor, 70; Liz Forgan, former managing director, BBC network radio, 54; Richard Gere, actor, 49; Prof

Christine King, vice-chancellor, Staffordshire University, 54; Clive Lloyd, cricketer, 54; Prof Sir Bernard Lovell, FRS, astronomer, 88; Van Morrison, rock singer, 83; Ed Moses, athlete, 43; Bryan Organ, painter, 63; Hishak Perelman, violinist, 63; Shauwar Sadeque, BBC governor, 58; Lynnda Ralph-Richt, editor, Design Week, 50.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

AN ARTICLE which was headed *Poisoned chalice* (page 13, 32, August 25), referred to the physical effects of alcohol, giving various measurements in milligrams of alcohol but omitting in each case to add the phrase, per 100 millilitres of blood. For example we should have said, it takes at least 450 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood... to send a person of average build into a coma.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Brown back to work with a curse

IT IS almost as if Labour governments are cursed. For some unfathomable reason, their elevation to office seems to coincide with economic crises beyond their control — which is bad luck when you consider how infrequently Conservative political hegemony has been challenged this century.

Between the world wars, Labour was in power for less than three years, but it was at the head of a minority administration during the years that spanned the Wall Street crash and the Depression.

Indeed, it was the refusal of Ramsay MacDonald's administration to challenge the prevailing orthodoxy of the gold standard and balanced budgets in the face of a deflationary shock that split the party. Similarly, it was left to Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan to pick up the pieces in the 1970s after a combination of Edward Heath and the Opec oil cartel created the conditions for runaway inflation.

Ironically, again Labour found it hard to break with the orthodoxy — in this case demand management and full employment — and staggered on for a bit before embracing an early form of monetarism.

After the events of recent weeks, the question is whether the Blair government is similarly ill-starred.

It is one of the assumptions of modern politics that Blair is safely ensconced in Downing Street for two terms at least, but that presupposes

that the economy does not blow up in the Government's face and that the Conservative party continues to languish in the polls at around 30 per cent. The two are, of course, inextricably linked.

The economic situation has darkened considerably during the past month. When Gordon Brown left for his holiday in Cape Cod a month ago he was fairly confident the conditions were right for a slow-down but not a slump.

However, the latest forecasts from the Confederation of British Industry point to 1999 being a very difficult year. Growth is expected to drop from 2.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent, manufacturing is in recession for a second year and consumer spending growth to weaken markedly to 1.3 per cent.

Given the tendency of forecasters to underestimate both upswings and downswings, the outcome could be even worse than the CBI expects.

Up to a point the Chancellor can tough it out. It is hard to see what alternative he has, given the decisions made early in Labour's tenure.

Brown's macroeconomic objective of arriving at the Treasury was to squeeze out inflationary pressure and create the stability he deemed necessary for faster growth.

No interview with a Treasury minister is now complete without a mention of the need to end the debilitating boom-bust cycle.

Sterling's strength on the foreign exchanges suggests that the financial markets are reasonably happy with what they have seen so far.

Far from falling against other major currencies — which should be the case as a result of Britain's higher unemployment rate — investors have been piling into sterling assets as a safe haven against the storm raging through the global economy.

Put simply, the prospect of a slow-down in Britain — even a sharp one — seems far less frightening than holding marks at a time when Russia is on its knees.

The problem, of course, is that the appreciation of sterling shortens the odds on the

confronts the Chancellor as he returns to work this week. The economy is palpably unbalanced, growth forecasts are being scaled down, the pound is overvalued, and the trade figures are worse than they have been since the start of the decade.

Various ideas have been aired for what Brown should do next. It is being suggested that he take back control of interest rates from the Bank of England or that, as a second-best option, he change the result of the monetary policy committee to make it ex-

going to happen. Similarly, Brown has only limited scope in fiscal policy.

Plans for public spending were set earlier in the summer, and to the extent that they are mildly expansionary for the last three years of the parliament, they will help offset the drag on growth from high real interest rates, the exchange rate and a dire external economic situation.

However, if the global melt-down reinforces the domestic generated slow-down in Britain, the Chancellor is going to look very orthodox and very exposed.

Some of the arguments are already being rehearsed. As Ross McKibbin put it in the latest *London Review of Books*: "Brown has chosen to subordinate employment levels to monetary considerations — as did British governments in the twenties — and thus to ensure that the beneficiaries of his policies are those who do not vote for his party. What is most depressing is that the lessons of the twenties need to be learned all over again."

This is not really fair. Much of what Brown has done has been both redistributive and progressive — but when did fairness have anything to do with politics?

The Chancellor has been the architect of Labour's economic strategy and has been allowed by the Prime Minister to take the credit when things have gone well. He can expect little mercy from the Millbank tendency — nor from the many, many Labour MPs with majorities of under 10,000 if things start to go seriously wrong.

the heart of globalisation. The chance of this, however, is pretty remote.

The Government has no real critics of globalisation and sees the problems of the past year as ones of political incompetence and corruption, rather than the result of fundamental defects inherent in a system of total capital market liberalisation.

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The latest CBI forecast points to 1999 being a very difficult year

slow-down turning into a full-blown recession. Calls for urgent cuts in rates to take the pressure off the pound are becoming more strident, and the CBI believes that even its paltry growth forecast will only be achieved by cutting base rates to 5.25 per cent by the end of 1999.

But it is not only at home that the outlook has worsened. August has been a frightful month on the world's stock markets, dominated by wholly justifiable fears that the crisis which started in Thailand a year ago is spreading to all parts of the globe. The United States and Europe now look like tranquil islands of prosperity about to be battered by a hurricane.

All in all, then, it is not an especially pleasant combination of circumstances that

slow-down turning into a full-blown recession. Calls for urgent cuts in rates to take the pressure off the pound are becoming more strident, and the CBI believes that even its paltry growth forecast will only be achieved by cutting base rates to 5.25 per cent by the end of 1999.

But it is not only at home that the outlook has worsened. August has been a frightful month on the world's stock markets, dominated by wholly justifiable fears that the crisis which started in Thailand a year ago is spreading to all parts of the globe. The United States and Europe now look like tranquil islands of prosperity about to be battered by a hurricane.

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Why Keynes holds the key to rescue of underclass

DEBATE/ROBIN MARRIS is Prof Emeritus of Economics at Birkbeck College, London University. As an undergraduate at Cambridge he was taught economics by some of John Maynard Keynes's collaborators and in 1997 he gave a lecture which contended that Keynes was at least as relevant to the next century as to the present. After Labour was elected he imagined it was just the kind of message the new Government would like to hear. Now he realises how naive he was. Today's article is an edited version of the original lecture — next week Prof Marris will ask what went wrong

AS THE world's financial markets are crashing it must never be forgotten that the fundamental target of any rational economic policy must be to maximise the long-run growth of what economists call "social welfare".

In other words, the average wellbeing of all the people in society with disproportionate weight given to people with lower incomes, or those who are born with inherited social, intellectual or material disadvantages.

In a book I published in 1996, *How To Save The Underclass*, I argued that in the last quarter of the 20th century this has gone wrong. An underclass has emerged. These are typically people born into families with a combination of low ability, low education and low income. Up to about five years ago in both the UK and the United States, they experienced falling or stagnating real wages, increasing non-inclusion in the open economy, increasing involvement in drug dealing and crime and finally an increase in imprisonment.

In both countries the upward tendency has since been slowed down, and I suggest that the essential reasons for this are not to be found in micro or social policies, such as welfare to work, but in the improved macro performance of the two economies.

Keynesian economics is often described as "demand-side" economics: look after the general demand for goods and labour and the supply side will look after itself. In contrast, a good example of the supply-side outlook is the belief that if people are unemployed it must be because they are unemployable.

I argued in my book that the cause of the new underclass problem was in fact an interaction between demand and supply-side factors.

The supply side was mainly new technology. The demand side was the failure of economies to keep up with the long run growth of population, with labour released by productivity increases and with the long-run increase in the number of women who desired paid employment.

seem to enjoy themselves on either side of the bar — and rather good time, and not bad money, seems to be had by all.

So the Keynesian solution to social problems is whatever it takes to expand the real economy.

This could have many facets. For example, I would say if there is a case to be made for a heavy anti-inflation policy it must be in concrete evidence that the effects of a looser policy would hinder rather than help the long-run growth of output.

There is no other — repeat no other — case for having very low inflation. The July 1997 issue of the *Economic Review* of the National Institute for Economic Research studied the effects of reducing the inflation target in five established computer models of the British economy.

It came up with the result — surprise, surprise — that they did not all agree. The Institute's own model came up with a massive long-term output gain while the Treasury model came up with a major loss! Among the other models, some gave neutral results, others moderate to serious losses. What happens when you do this to the model used by the Bank of England monetary policy committee?

IN THE years to come there should, in principle, be a number of favourable factors reducing the supply of labour and increasing the demand for labour.

As an increasing proportion of the female population is taken up, that factor must slow down. Increased flexibility in business organisation, with new technology, eases the costs of growth. But on the other side is the hangover of inflation-phobia and persistently high long-term real interest rates, caused in turn by the policy on short-term rates.

In my opinion the greatest threat to any future progress is thus found in anti-Keynesian ideology.

What is needed is a fundamental change in the signals emanating from the Government, along with a more pragmatic attitude to inflation. The atmosphere around EMU, in this respect, is especially bad. In Britain, there is confusion in high places.

In a speech given in the garden of No 10 Downing Street in July to celebrate the first year's performance of his administration, the Prime Minister asked: "What other government would have given financial independence to the Bank of England as well as setting up a unit to deal with homelessness?"

What a strange proposition. Did he mean that he knew that the brief his Chancellor had given to the Bank would necessarily tend to increase homelessness? If not, what did he mean?

Economics made easy

Is globalisation increasing the gap between the world's rich and poor? Inequality is on the rise in many countries. Worst affected are the former communist countries, which used to have quite a flat income distribution. There have been sharp rises in inequality as they've introduced market reforms. Elsewhere the picture is mixed. It is generally true that low-skilled workers in the West have fallen behind the rest of the population over the past two decades. Some people have suggested this is because of competition from cheap low-skilled labour in the developing world.

Why some of the poor are still getting poorer

Is that likely? Trade has definitely been increasing over the period unskilled workers have been falling behind. But there is an alternative explanation — the introduction of computers and new technology, which require trained operators, has decreased the demand for low-skilled workers.

Which explanation is correct? It is still being debated by economists and the evidence is mixed. Some studies suggest that up to a fifth of the increase in wage inequality could be caused by trade. But there are problems with this explanation. For one thing,

countries tend to trade mostly with economies at similar levels of development, so there isn't as much competition from low-wage Third World workers as is commonly supposed. While labour costs may be cheaper in the developing world, workers are not necessarily as productive.

Companies are interested in unit labour costs — how much it costs to produce a chunk of output — not hourly wages.

So western firms can afford to pay their workers more? It depends on the sector. Textiles and low value-added manufacturing, where

productivity increases are hard to make, are gradually shifting out of the industrialised economies into the less-developed world and this move seems unlikely to slow down.

Even within the developing world, countries face competition in these sectors. The first wave of Asian tigers, which grew rapidly on the back of low-skilled labour, shifted into hi-tech production when they faced competition from the likes of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Are Third World countries catching up with the West?

Until the recent crisis in Asia it appeared that some of the fast-growing developing countries of the region were achieving western standards of living. In theory, in a more integrated world, poor countries should eventually catch up with rich countries. But some academics say the evidence points in a different direction. Growth rates for many low-income countries are abysmal. Rather than catching up the West, it appears there is an increasingly large gap between the small group of rich countries and the much larger group of developing nations. There is not much sign that the gap is closing.

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Charlotte Denny

Roosevelt's new deal would be the right medicine for today

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THE money-changers are feeling the temple of civilisation, so it is not surprising that the R-word is starting to be heard once again. Where, it is asked, are the successors to Roosevelt when we need them?

In the months to come, we shall doubtless see

assorted candidates trying to add to the list of past, present and future presidents, jangling cigarette-holders and bawling out their teeth and declaring bravely that we have nothing to fear but fear itself.

Sad to say, that is likely to be the extent of their emulation of the great man. There will be little sign of the "moments of experiment" described by Churchill in his essay on his future war ally.

Roosevelt, we can be confident, would have had little time for bond dealers or

derivatives traders. "New deal", in his language, meant rather more than bailing out the country around the country to keep down the unemployment figures.

So, with the 1990s "triumph of capitalism" going up in flames, what would he have done today? A glance at his record provides a few pointers.

First, he would have understood that, as in the 1920s, banking and speculation are the problem, not the solution. Roosevelt

would have pressed for an international version of his Glass-Steagall Act, limiting each bank to one country and forcing them to divest their investment arms and other activities. No "global" banks for him.

Second, as the deflationary gale hit with full force, Roosevelt would have mobilised the public sector to stand ready as employer of last resort. There would have been no question of ordinary workers bearing the pain of "adjustment".

Third, he would have

beefed up the financial regulators as he did 60 years ago, and unleashed them on the guilty men: the rogue traders and insider dealers. Lengthy prison terms could have been expected.

Fourth, he is likely to have taken practical steps to tilt the institutional balance firmly in favour of organised labour and against the boss class, but in such a way as to yield concrete benefits, not to turn industrial relations into a branch of the litigation industry.

Fifth, he would have convened an international summit to reshape the institutions (World Bank, IMF) that helped us into this mess in the first place, purging them of their obsession with sound money and balanced budgets.

Would it work today? Well, plenty of people thought it wouldn't work then. But, to return to Churchill's verdict, such a programme would probably be our best hope of achieving "an easier and more genial age".

Indicators

TOMORROW — UK: Consumer credit (July).
UK: Purchasing managers' index (Aug).
GER: Council Meeting.
WEDNESDAY — US: Factory orders (July).
THURSDAY — UK: Purchasing managers' services survey (Aug).
GER: Central Bank council meeting.
US: Jobless claims (week ending 29 August).
US: Productivity/Unit labour costs (Q2 revised).
FRIDAY — US: Non-farm payrolls (Jun).
Source: HSBC.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.66	Germany 2.6011	Malaysia 6.52	Singapore 2.86
Austria 20.27	Greece 504.81	South Africa 10.88	Spain 243.96
Belgium 39.57	Hong Kong 12.50	Netherlands 3.25	Sweden 13.59
Canada 2.55	India 69.96	New Zealand 3.32	Switzerland 2.37
Cyprus 0.848	Ireland 1.424	Norway 13.30	Turkey 442.750
Denmark 11.07	Israel 6.24	Portugal 294.13	USA 1.6142
Finland 8.89	Italy 2.863	Saudi Arabia 5.13	
France 9.95			

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FinanceGuardian

Russian crisis unites West

Jill Treanor

THE Group of Seven industrial nations and the European Union agreed last night to coordinate their response to the crisis in Russia amid concerns that failure by the G7 to come up with specific proposals to ease Russia's economic plight will do little to prevent further turmoil on the world's financial markets.

The agreement between Prime Minister Tony Blair, currency G7 president, and Austria's Chancellor Viktor

Klima, president of the EU, comes at a crucial time for the markets, which face another roller-coaster ride.

Mr Blair yesterday discussed Russia with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Russia's biggest creditor, and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. Mr Kohl also spoke to Russia's Boris Yeltsin, who last week sacked his government and then agreed to step down in 2000.

A spokesman for Mr Klima said: "They [Blair and Klima] agreed that the European Union and G7 should co-ordinate their response to the Russian crisis". However

Austria does not intend to call an emergency meeting of European finance ministers or of the EU and G7.

Markets are anxiously awaiting today's debate in Russia's parliament on the appointment as prime minister of Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom Mr Yeltsin asked to form a government a week ago. Further political upheaval in Russia would provide another blow to world markets battered by Russia's decision two weeks ago effectively to default on its debt and then devalue the rouble.

The FTSE 100 share index fell to a seven-month low on

Friday, as did Wall Street. Most market commentators believe the turmoil is far from over and expect continuing turbulence.

"The markets are going to remain nervous about Russia, but the focus has moved on to Brazil and Hong Kong," said Marcel Cassard, chief economist for emerging Europe at Deutsche Bank.

Russia's difficulties have heightened investors' awareness about problems facing other countries, particularly in Latin America and Asia. "Russia was clearly a trigger event. Investors are very nervous," Mr Cassard said.

Some experts fear Russia may now be driven from its reformist path back to a command-driven economy.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said yesterday: "There is a clear feeling among the G7 leaders that it is in all our interests to make sure Russia gets through this crisis and it will best do so by sticking to the reform path."

With London closed today, markets in Asia, Europe and the US are expected to have fallen further before dealers can next trade here.

The first indications of market sentiment will come from Hong Kong, where the

authorities have taken the unprecedented step of buying shares to prevent the stock market from falling. Mixed in reaction, Hong Kong faces the dilemma of whether to continue to maintain its currency's much-coveted peg against the US dollar, which may force the former colony to raise interest rates.

Dealers think the Hong Kong authorities may scale back their purchases in the stock market this week, which could lead to a dramatic slide in the Hang Seng index, which has been defying the downward path of other world markets.

Hong Kong Notebook

The inscrutable mask is slipping



John Gittings

WHILE Asia's week of financial blood-letting reached its peak on Friday, China was professing to be entirely unscathed.

It was the day when Hong Kong admitted that it was in full recession and the Japanese market hit its lowest level for 12 years. From South Korea to Singapore, GDP figures were in decline.

Yet in Beijing Premier Zhu Rongji went out of his way to reassert the mainland's pre-crisis target of an 8 per cent GDP rise for this year and insist that China would not devalue the renminbi.

This is carrying Taoist calmness a shade too far. China is wrestling with the worst floods for nearly 50 years on top of regional economic turmoil and mounting unemployment at home.

Puzzlingly, it is also only a few days since President Jiang Zemin suggested that the GDP target might not be achieved. He also shaded the commitment not to devalue the renminbi by adding that this carried a risk.

So why did Mr Zhu seize the not wholly appropriate occasion of a meeting with the US "tele-evangelist" Pat Robertson to stress the importance of low inflation — sticking to 8 per cent growth — and should anyone be impressed?

Insisting that a high growth rate can be achieved may indirectly help maintain confidence in the renminbi. But face of a different kind is also involved. The Chinese leadership has just been holding its summer convocation by the seaside at Beldaihe where Mao was high on the agenda.

Chinese political culture still attaches huge importance to numerical targets. This particular one was proclaimed in March at the National People's Congress when Mr Zhu got his job.

WITH foreign markets and domestic consumption both falling, Mr Zhu appears determined

anyway to take special measures to keep output looking healthy. The plan is to pump state funds into roads, railways, new building and communications in the fourth quarter, which would jack up the overall GDP figure for 1998. This weekend Beijing announced a new issue of one hundred billion renminbi (270 million) in treasury bonds to finance the investment.

This sounds more like playing games with numbers than brilliant macro-management of the Chinese economy with which Mr Zhu is usually credited. But what remains of confidence in Asia rests so largely upon assuming that China will remain stable that Beijing has so far been given the benefit of the doubt. The whole region has a vested interest in high growth rates on the mainland. If output and exports continue to fall then China may have to devalue.

Last week an Asian executives poll in the Far Eastern Economic Review showed that most business leaders expect the renminbi to be devalued within six months. Only in Hong Kong — for obvious reasons of self-protection — do a sizeable number believe that it will not happen in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile observers with their eyes on the back alleys of Beijing and Shanghai are noting that black market traders have raised their rates for the US dollar. There are signs too of a growing seepage of foreign currency out of China into safe havens abroad.

If China is forced to devalue, it will have an alibi close at hand. Chinese leaders have made plenty of sour remarks about Japan's inability to tackle the yen crisis.

Mr Zhu drew a sarcastic contrast between American eagerness to see the yen devalued and its enthusiastic support for the stability of the renminbi at the Beldaihe Party conference. The difference, he suggested, was simply that Japan has bought heavily into the US national debt and devaluation would reduce the size of its holding.

He and other Chinese officials have also poured scorn on Washington's complaints to Beijing. Action would be more appreciated and this, in the Chinese view, should not be confined to the economic sphere. Also on Friday, Beijing voiced its bitter objection to the latest round of planned US military arms sales to Taiwan.

Huge trading losses cast doubt on bank marriages

BURGEONING trading losses racked up by western banks as a result of the Russian crisis are fuelling talk that the mega-mergers sweeping the financial sector may come to a halt, writes Jill Treanor.

Among the mergers now in doubt are those in the United States between BankAmerica and Nationsbank, and the

\$70 billion deal between Citibank and Travelers Group. Speculation also surrounds the planned \$30 billion flotation by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank due to come to market in the autumn.

Market conditions — which have driven shares in London and New York to their lowest levels for seven months — would make any float difficult

to manage. The fall in share prices would also mean that Goldman's partners would receive less from a float.

Speculation has also targeted the size of the losses many rivals believe Goldman has incurred in Russia.

A spokesman insisted that Goldman's exposure was "minimal, insignificant". The turmoil in Russia has

forced a number of banks to admit to large-scale losses. Bankers admit they are hard to evaluate, given the market for roubles and Russian debt has dried up.

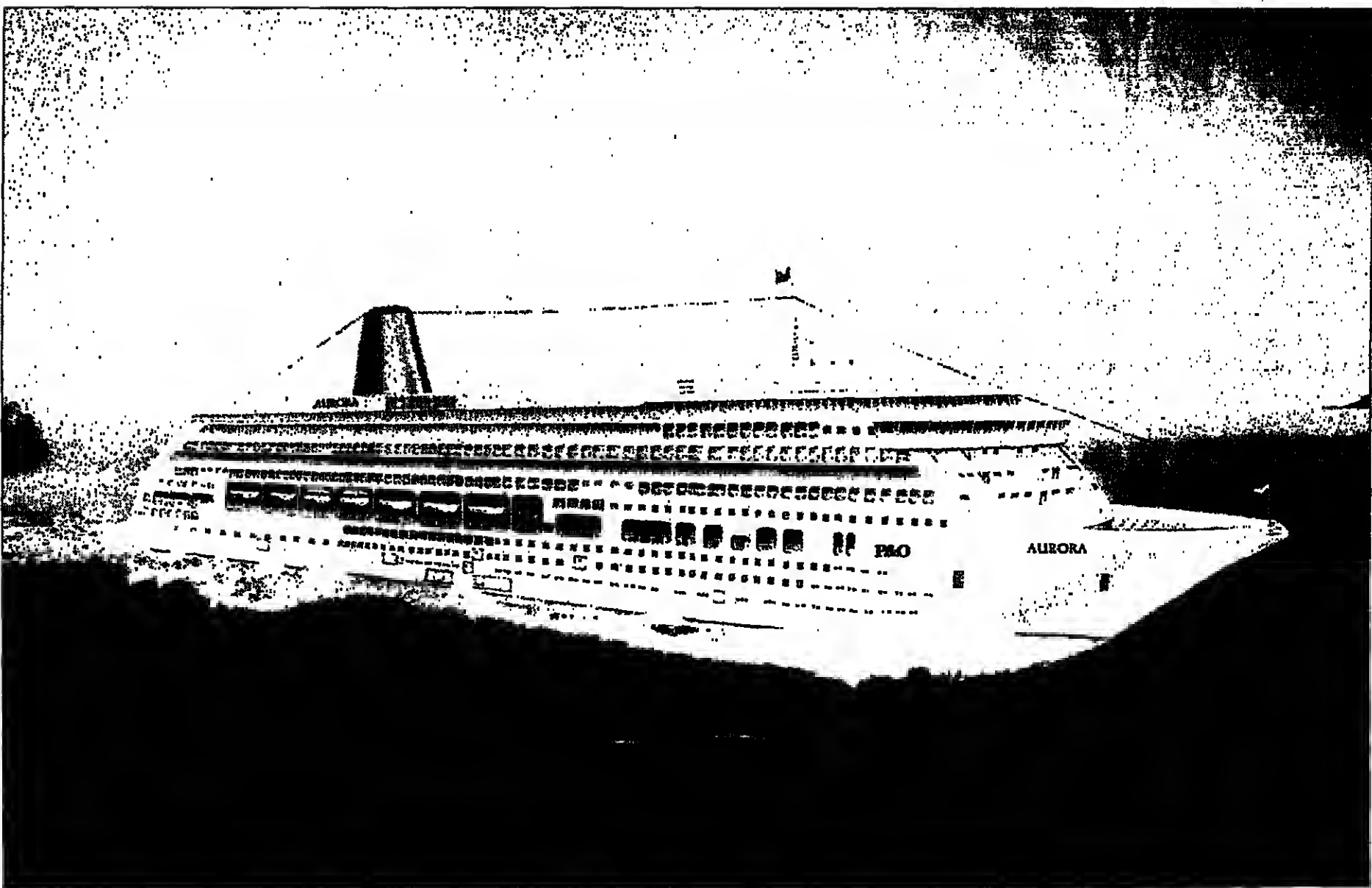
Investment bank Brown Brothers Harriman says US banks have about \$7.5 billion exposed to Russia — in contrast to Latin America, where they have nearly \$100 billion.

Pending mergers and floats

Target	Acquirer	Value Billion \$
Citicorp	Travelers Group	72.5
BankAmerica	Nationsbank	61.6
Wells Fargo	Norwest	34.0
First Chicago	BancOne	29.6
Goldman Sachs	Flotation	30.0*

*Estimated value

New dawn for P&O



P&O's new £200 million superliner is to be named Aurora, and will join the company's fleet in May 2000, it was announced yesterday, writes Peter Woodman.

A sister ship to the Oriana, the 76,000-tonne Aurora (artist's impression above) will be based at Southampton. "Aurora, the legendary goddess of the dawn, is a fit-

ting name for a superliner entering service at the beginning of a new millennium," said P&O chairman Lord Sterling. Capable of carrying up to 1,850 passengers, the 866ft-

long ship is being built at the Meyer Werft yard in northern Germany. Her keel will be laid in January 1999, and sea trials will take place in January 2000. Aurora should be handed

over to P&O Cruises in April 2000, with her maiden voyage taking place the following month. More than 106 feet wide and capable of speeds of up to 24 knots, the new vessel

features a number of "firsts", including two-deck penthouse suites. Passengers will be offered a champagne bar, a 24-hour bistro and tea and coffee-making facilities in every cabin.

CBI in accord with Chancellor

Financial staff

THE increasingly close relationship between the Government and the Confederation of British Industry will be underlined tomorrow when Adam Turner, the organisation's director-general, reveals that one of its main aims for the next 12 months is to raise Britain's productivity.

It is an objective he shares with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who has said that matching the world's best in output per head was the "next big challenge" facing the Government.

Writing in the new edition of CBI News, Mr Adam tells the 250,000 members of the employers' federation that it will work in partnership with the Government in order to raise people's skill levels. He adds that "the national campaign to spread best practice will also be a key feature of the [CBI] conference" next month.

The issue of productivity

first burst on the political agenda in May when Mr Brown highlighted figures produced by McKinsey, the international management consultants, showing that output per worker in Britain was 40 per cent lower than in the US and 30 per cent lower than in Germany.

The figures were far worse for car plants, with Britain producing 56 per cent of that achieved in Japan, and, when Rover announced last month that it was to shed 1,500 jobs, Mr Brown attempted to blame poor productivity rather than the high pound.

Mr Turner also downplays any conflict with the Government in his second main aim, contributing to the debate about macroeconomic stability.

"The surprising feature of the last year has been that business worries have derived less from deliberate Government policy than from the old non-ideological, non-party political problem of exchange rate volatility," he writes.

Racal tries to force telecoms sale

Chris Barrie

THE electronics and telecoms group, Racal, is stepping up its efforts to find a buyer for its telecoms division amid indications yesterday that a management buy-in is being assembled to bid for the business.

Having been forced to postpone a flotation of its telecoms arm, Racal is likely to welcome an approach from outsiders — if only to intensify competitive bidding for a business that has so far proved hard to sell.

Racal is based on the former British Rail telecoms communications business and considered the most attractive part of what is left of chairman Sir Ernest Harrison's empire after the disposal of Vodafone and Chubb.

However, a volatile stock market and past reluctance of other companies to pay hefty prices for Racal's telecoms division have meant a deal is proving elusive. Adding to the predicament, Racal Telecom has yet to find a new chief executive, despite searching for several months.

Racal Telecom has been

subject to a management buy-in bid before, on that occasion led by Duncan Lewis, the former head of Mercury Communications. However, its offer was rebuffed. The new consortium is understood not to include Mr Lewis.

Last night Scottish Power, the energy company, confirmed that it was interested in Racal. Scottish Power's telecoms subsidiary, Scottish Telecommunications, is a cornerstone of the group's strategy for growth and recently it bought the Internet service provider, Demon.

But Scottish Power also in-

dicated yesterday that no bid was in the offing in the near future and that it had dropped out of previous negotiations on grounds of disagreement over price. Recent estimates have valued Racal at as much as £750 million.

The telecoms company Enigma, also linked yesterday with a bid, indicated last night that it was not holding talks and had no immediate interest in making an offer.

The sale of Racal Telecom is one of the final tasks still to be completed by Sir Ernest Harrison who, at 72, has to consider retirement before long.

City fishes for Scots life insurers' riches

Jill Treanor

SCOTLAND'S life insurers are coming under strong pressure to float or merge from City investment bankers who would pick up fat fees if they won the management of deals for the mutual companies.

The head of one life company said last week that he was turning away investment bankers from his door in Edinburgh at the rate of at least one a week.

The push by City bankers to find potential merger candidates comes amid heightened speculation that Prudential, Lloyds TSB and AMP of Australia are keen to snap up insurance companies. AMP

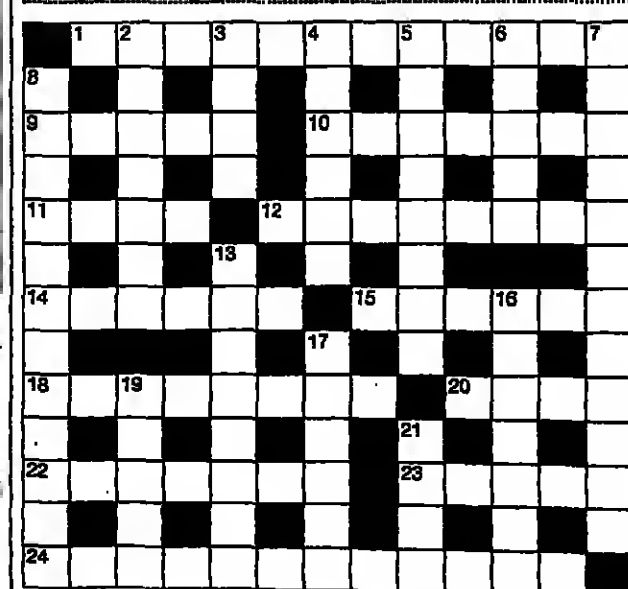
last week reiterated its ambition for further expansion in Britain. It has owned insurer Pearl Assurance since 1989, bought fund manager Henderson this year and has a joint venture with Virgin Direct.

It demonstrated its firepower last week by launching a hostile bid for another Australian insurance company, GIO. The former mutual also

stocked up its A\$8 billion (£2.7 billion) war-chest, arranged standby loans of £1.6 billion and implemented some other major borrowing programmes.

Such money is expected to fund acquisitions here and fuelled talk that former mutual Norwich Union, now listed on the stock market, may be a potential candidate.

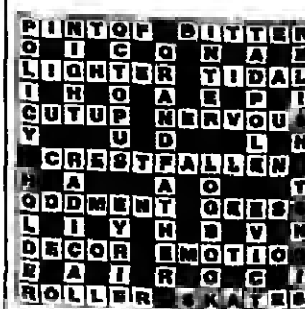
Quick Crossword No. 8840



- Across**
- Tamed (12)
 - Nick (5)
 - Hide (7)
 - Placed on top (4)
 - Enormous (8)
 - Conventional (5)
 - Halve (5)
 - Dealer — and thriller writer (8)
 - Stud — manager (4)
 - Brilliant green — gemstone (7)
 - Main — charge (5)
 - US celebration in November (12)

- Down**
- In the open air (7)
 - Reverberate (4)
 - Alarm signal (5)
 - Marjuna (8)
 - Minister — to buy one a drink (5)
 - Shop selling special or foreign foods (12)

- 13 Inadequate (12)
14 Distinctive feature (8)
15 Feeling (7)
16 Old, experienced sailor (3,3)
17 Stadium (5)
21 Black marketeer (4)



Solution No. 8839

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The Guardian Sport

Monday August 31 1998

Nightmare start for Tyneside's latest messiah

Premiership: Newcastle United 1 Liverpool 4

Owen leads Ruud awakening

Hat-trick takes
Liverpool top

David Lacey

RUUD GULLIT was as good as his word — up to a point anyway. Entertainment in abundance returned to St James' Park yesterday and one of England's two best strikers scored a 15-minute hat-trick.

Unhappily for the supporters of Newcastle United the fun was provided by Liverpool and the brisk hat-trick by Michael Owen. The response of the Newcastle team to having a famous Dutchman as manager was to play like tulips, especially at the back.

At times, particularly in the first half, a team of *They Times* could have tip-toed through Newcastle's midfield and defence. Liverpool's passing and movement will always punish opponents who stand still and leave spaces, and Owen's fin-

to the top of the Premiership under the management of Gerard Houllier and Roy Evans. And with England beginning their European Championship qualifiers in Sweden this Saturday there could hardly have been a better moment for Owen to reproduce his World Cup form. Add an industrious contribution from Jamie Redknapp, still very much part of Glenn Hoddle's plans, and the day was much more than merely a Newcastle anti-climax.

With David Batty both suspended and injured, Newcastle could ill afford to lose Dieter Hamann, their German midfielder, after only 12 minutes with a damaged knee. This left them exposed to the power of Paul Ince, the vision of Redknapp and Patrick Berger's eagerness to gain a regular place in the Liverpool side.

At times Liverpool moved the ball forward with embarrassing ease, brushing aside half-hearted challenges and simply playing the ball past Newcastle's ponderous defence, leaving Owen's pace to do the rest. Gullit had been greeted rapturously from the stands and an ecstatic PA announcer declared it to be the "beginning of a new world".

The reality was football's equivalent of Third Rock From The Sun, with Newcastle cast as the aliens struggling to understand what earthlings take for granted. A few minutes of George's optimism as Gary Speed dragged a dipping centre from Stuart Pearce wide and the rest belonged to Owen.

While abject defence undoubtedly exaggerated the drama of the 18-year-old striker's latest achievement, it was still superb finishing. In the 16th minute Shay Given could only push a 25-yard drive from Ince straight to Owen, who volleyed the ball in at the near post. Another minute and Steve McManaman had sent Owen through a square, static defence to draw Gullit off his line before slipping Liverpool's second through the goalkeeper's legs.

Liverpool's supporters promptly began an ironic chant of "Dalglish, Dalglish" followed by a plea to "Back the board". Four minutes before the half-hour Stéphane Guivarch, whom Dalglish had signed from Auxerre for £3.5 million, marked his first appearance for Newcastle by scoring off a post after Robert Lee had caught Phil Babb in possession on the right and laid the ball across low.

But within six minutes Karlheinz Riedle had won the ball off Laurent Charvet before sending Owen on another scamper through Newcastle's defence, this time to beat Given with a beautifully taken shot. Then Berger ended the first half by beating Steve Watson and Charvet on the left before adding Liverpool's fourth.

Match stats	
	Newcastle
Possession	48%
Attempts on target	5
Attempts off target	14
Corners	5
Fouls	12
Offsides	0
Bookings	2
Sendings-off	0

ishing here ensured that the punishment was absolute.

This was certainly not the dour but parsimonious Newcastle of Kenny Dalglish, whose unceremonious departure last Thursday preceded Gullit's arrival. Yet neither was it the Newcastle of Kevin Keegan, a team more in the habit of sharing goals than just giving them away.

Gullit watched the first half, when all the goals were scored, impassively from the stands. Tommy Craig and Alan Irvine, two of Dalglish's one-time assistants, had selected the side. "I won't pick the team," Gullit had said, "but I'll have a good look at what I've inherited."

In fact he needed only 45 minutes to study his legacy before moving down to the touchline in an effort to salvage something from the will. As he said afterwards: "It's very hard to do nothing."

By the time Gullit was able to get around to changing anything yesterday, Newcastle's latest new signing had clouded over with little hint of a silver lining. For the home supporters the day's only happy event was provided by the young woman who went into labour in the club shop before kick-off.

For Liverpool and England, however, the afternoon was highly rewarding. With seven points out of nine and a superior goal difference Liverpool have wasted little time rising



Touchline trauma... Ruud Gullit sees his new team being taken apart at home by the sheer pace and lethal finishing of the England wonder boy

PHOTOGRAPH: SHAUN BOTTERILL

Clueless on dreadlock holiday

Michael Walker sees the new manager suffer bad-hair hell as Liverpool's fans tell him where to stick his sexy football

THIS ain't how it was meant to be. You don't have the most hyped, lengthy entrance since Prince Naseem Hamed last fought only to fall over on your backside. That's how it was for Ruud Gullit at St James' Park yesterday. Welcome to Tyneside.

It had started in Gullit's description "incredibly" — the ovation from the Toon Army must have warmed the homes of the notoriously cool dude Ruud.

It was a quarter to four and Newcastle was in blue heaven. After the ice age of Kenny Dalglish, Gullit was here to bring back the charisma, prestige, glamour and goals. Yesterday he even brought the weather, Newcastle soaked in sunshine for the first dreadlocked Bank Holiday.

Sadly for United there is one thing Gullit did not and cannot bring with him and that is Michael Owen. At half-past-four when Owen was screeching through the

challenges of Laurent Charvet (Gullit's last signing at Chelsea) and Philippe Albert to dispatch the ball past Shay Given as if posting a letter, the Toon Army was in bad-hair hell.

Gullit was shifting in his seat high in the Millburn Stand — "I wanted to see exactly what was going wrong" — and having done so, notebook in hand, he made his way to the dressing-room at half-time. Words, presumably, were exchanged.

When the teams had been announced everybody had been looking for clues as to the hand of Gullit in Newcastle's selection. Though he had said his two assistants Tommy Craig and Alan Irvine were picking the side, few believed the Dutchman's words, a suspicion that gained credibility when Newcastle appeared in an unusually adventurous 3-4-5 formation.

It is hard to believe Dalglish's henchmen have suddenly acquired a taste for

imaginative systems since last Thursday, so surely this was Gullit's doing. Of equal significance to Newcastle watchers were those included and excluded from the new line-up. Major Dalglish signings such as Alessandro Pistone, who had played in both of Newcastle's previous games, Nolberto Solano and Andreas Andersson did not even make the bench, sure to be taken as a sign that they are on their way out.

Dalglish's son Paul was one of the substitutes, though. Gullit was asked about Solano afterwards but the new Newcastle manager again stressed his non-involvement in selection and rather strangely said that it was not tactics but attitude that mattered.

The home fans may have jeered ironically when Warren Barton replaced Carl Serrant at half-time but this should be remembered as Gullit's first tactical switch at Newcastle. The team looked marginally tighter as a result.

"It's nice to see in the second half that things did change," said Gullit. "It was very interesting for me to see the two faces of Newcastle today." He did not

say if they were blank and blunder. He added: "I knew it was going to be harder." But as he was driven away from the ground last night he must have been thinking: "But not this hard."

Then again, Newcastle will not come across the likes of Owen every week. Initially Gullit gave a rather ungracious response about him: "We gave him too much space. We made it easy for him." But the Dutchman seemed to sense his lack of magnanimity for he quickly added: "But he's still class."

Should Owen continue like this then Roy Evans and Gerard Houllier will have their hands full containing national excitement, although Houllier made a good start here. Asked to describe Owen's performance, he replied: "Helpful."

It was the second great line from the Liverpool camp yesterday. Earlier one of the finest chants to be heard at an England football ground resounded around the stadium. It came from the Liverpool fans and it is one Gullit may hear again: "You can stick your sexy football up your arse." Welcome back.

Ferguson set to go as Smith clears decks at Goodison

Ian Ross

EVERTON's talismanic captain Duncan Ferguson could have played his last game for the club.

By the time the Premiership campaign resumes next week the Scottish international striker may have reluctantly swapped Merseyside for Teesside.

Middlesbrough's six-month pursuit of Ferguson is expected to reach a conclusion later this week with a £10 million bid.

However, Middlesbrough are not the only British club who would be willing to invest heavily in the controversial forward — his former club Rangers have already indicated that they would like to take Ferguson back to Ibrox irrespective of the Scottish international only last week.

Although Everton have publicly insisted that the 28-year-old Ferguson is not for sale, they would find it difficult to refuse any offer in excess of £8 million for a player who has achieved cult status

in the North-west despite having a dubious goal-scoring record.

The Everton manager Walter Smith, having invested heavily in new players since he succeeded Howard Kendall at Goodison Park last month, appreciates that he must now raise cash before he can continue with his extensive overhaul.

Everton currently stand one place off the bottom of the Premiership, having collected a single point from their opening three league fixtures, one more than Southampton.

The Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson would appear to be grimly determined to make Ferguson the most expensive player in his club's history. Robson has already had three bids rejected. The last of them, an offer of £8 million, was tabled for the lapsed Scottish international only last week.

If Smith does decide to sanction the sale of Ferguson it would represent the boldest gamble of his managerial career at a club which has fallen on such hard times in recent seasons that the big Scot is revered there.

It was Smith who ended Ferguson's career at Rangers four years ago when he sold him to Everton for a fee of £4.4 million.

England's front line	
Goalkeepers	1
Defenders	1
Midfielders	1
Forwards	1
Substitutes	1
Goalkeepers	1
Defenders	1
Midfielders	1
Forwards	1
Substitutes	1
Goalkeepers	1
Defenders	1
Midfielders	1
Forwards	1
Substitutes	1
Goalkeepers	1
Defenders	1
Midfielders	1
Forwards	1
Substitutes	1

Premiership

Everton 0 Tottenham Hotspur 1

Gross buys time before that return tube ticket

David Lacey

TOTTENHAM'S victory at Everton is more likely to be Christian Gross's epitaph as Spurs manager than his salvation. If he stays at White Hart Lane it will be because Alan Sugar has had a change of heart and, when it comes to changing hearts, the Tottenham chairman does not generally give the impression of someone who prefers a softer model.

Gross, therefore, may well have ended his brief career at Spurs much as he began it nine months earlier, with a hard-working victory at Goodison Park against a poor Everton side struggling to come to terms with the basics. Again it would appear that Jürgen Klinsmann is being wooed back to Tottenham, this time as manager. The club is rapidly becoming a living embodiment of Groundhog Day.

At Goodison the absurdities and illogicalities of football management were there for all to see. A Tottenham team thick with multi-national internationals but previously thin on application suddenly rediscovered the work ethic and performed as if the last thing they wanted to see was

the back of Gross's pate boarding the Piccadilly Line for Heathrow Central. Having led from the fifth minute when Lee Ferdinand's late run and leap to meet David Ginola's corner found the Everton defence collectively contemplating its navel, Spurs won the game with the mixture of industry, determination and no little quality which eventually kept them in the Premiership last season after a dangerous dalliance with relegation.

Two early defeats, against Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday, accompanied by poor defending and limp responses elsewhere, have had Tottenham supporters rounding on Sugar followed by reports that the chairman might be about to sell up. But chairmen never leave, just like that. What, after all, are managers for anyway?

So Gross, watched his drones become worker bees for the afternoon and said all the things he had said after Spurs won 2-0 at Everton last November. Good fighting performance, everybody focused, positive attitudes throughout, and so on and so forth.

He had, in truth, done all that a manager could be expected to do after a bad start to the season. And replacing Ian Walker, an occasional England goalkeeper, with Sven Baardsen, Spurs' 20-year-old Norwegian, proved an inspired decision.

But for Baardsen's courage and agility Duncan Ferguson would have broken Everton's duck for the new season and brought Goodison its first Premiership victory. As well as keeping out a series of Scottish headers, the Tottenham goalkeeper also tipped a rising 25-yard free-kick from Olivier Dacourt, Goodison's £3.5 million French midfielder, over the bar.

When Ferguson did at last find the net, having forced his way past Sol Campbell and beaten Baardsen, it was only



Spurs to a season... Lee Ferdinand celebrates kick-starting Tottenham's campaign with his head at Goodison Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID KENDALL

Match stats

	Ever	Tot
Possession	47%	53%
Attempts on target	6	5
Attempts off target	7	1
Corners	9	6
Offsides	27	23
Bookings	2	3
Sendings-off	0	0

to find a flag up for offside. With nine minutes to go an inspired ball from Dacourt gave John Spencer the opportunity to clip a narrow-angle shot towards the far corner of the net, only for Campbell to hug it off the line.

By any stretch of the imagination it was an encouraging and timely victory for Tottenham which owed much not only to Baardsen but to an unusually solid performance at the back from Ramon Vega as well as a busy contribution from Darren Anderton.

Yet the frustrations of football management, especially

at Tottenham just now, were summed up by Ginola, a gifted individual who is apt to forget he is part of a team. Having laid on what proved to be the winning goal, the Frenchman seemed to be about to set up another early in the second half when he gathered Anderton's pass and outpaced Everton on the left.

As Ginola cut in towards the byline Ruel Fox took up an unmarked position in front of goal. A pass then and the contest would have been over. But Ginola decided to take the ball on and had his heels clipped by the pursuing

David Unsworth. No penalty was given, however, whereupon the outraged victim became so obsessed with his protest that he ignored the game for a few seconds. Ginola had a case, to be sure, but his reaction was thoroughly unprofessional.

Later Everton might have had a penalty when Marco Materazzi, their £2.5 million centre-back from Perugia, joined the attack and fell over Anderton's outstretched foot. This, however, did not dispel the notion that Everton have managed to acquire that footballing rarity, an Italian de-

fender who is not very good at defending. As Walter Smith, the latest manager to attempt to bring better days back to Goodison, pointed out, Everton's most pressing need is for an alternative striker to ease the demands on Ferguson. It is now 353 minutes since the team scored a league goal but on Saturday part of the problem stemmed from the poverty of the service coming from the back.

Smith's three central defenders did not operate as a unit while Alex Cleland and the promising Michael Ball rarely supported the attack in

the way wing-backs should. John Collins and Dacourt will surely give Everton's midfield the quality and variety which has been missing in recent seasons but too often on Saturday they were outnumbered and ineffective.

At least Smith has time on his side as the new signings bed down but in the current football climate this is not saying much. Another couple of bad results and the buzzards of rumour and speculation will be wheeling above Goodison Park much as they have been filling the skies over White Hart Lane.



Shouting match... Gross makes a point

IAN HOOSSON

Two punch-drunk has-beens slog it out

Vivek Chaudhary talks to two sets of troubled fans who both remember better times but expect their teams to struggle again

GOODISON PARK played host to a gathering of troubled souls at the weekend. On three sides of the ground sat the Everton fans, in a corner were their cousins from Tottenham and on the hench sat two troubled managers praying that, for a brief while at least, they might be able to find some salvation from their suffering.

It was Christian Gross and the rest of the Tottenham contingent who had their prayers answered at the end of an encounter that could have been compared to a meeting between two families thrown

together because of domestic difficulties. There was a time when this match would have been an eagerly anticipated fixture. But now it is for all the wrong reasons - relegation, player unrest, fan frustration and managerial upheaval - that the neutrals' attention is drawn.

Like two has-been punch-drunk boxers surviving on past glories, Everton and Spurs scrapped rather than waged tactical battle and for the beleaguered fans, Saturday's game was worryingly like the two relegation encounters last season. Both clubs share a recent common history that nei-

ther wants and both are preparing for more of the same with the season only three games old.

"Both teams look as if they're preparing for a relegation fight," said a Tottenham fan, Hardip Mochada. "We are both big clubs and shouldn't really be in this position. But at least Everton have spent big money on some players and things might eventually start going right for them. At Tottenham, our problems are both on and off the pitch."

Similar sentiments were echoed by Evertonians. Richard Caldecott said: "We are both going to have a similar sort of season. Neither of us is going to set the world alight and we'll both probably spend most of the season around the relegation zone. I think Walter Smith will eventually get things right but we should be grateful that we haven't got Christian Gross."

The Tottenham fans who made the trip to Merseyside had obviously decided that following last week's first tests after the home defeat against Sheffield Wednesday the time had come to bury the hatchet, for 90 minutes at least.

This time around there were no boos, with fans singing Barry Manilow's 'Can't Smile Without You' as Spurs took the lead and even the central defender Ramon Vega, pilloried last week, received cheers. The

one man whose name the fans did not chant was that of Gross.

By the end, talk of sacking the board and the manager had temporarily ceased as Spurs fans savoured their first points of the season to help prepare them for the changes that are sure to follow over the coming weeks.

Despite the millions of pounds Walter Smith has spent, things are obviously getting desperate at Everton, who have yet to score a goal this season.

To give the fans a taste of what they are missing, a half-time penalty shoot-out was arranged. There was only one competitor and no goalkeeper and all five penalties were successfully converted, much to the fans' delight.

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Blackburn Rovers 1 Leicester City 0

O'Neill feels pinch

Ian Rose

IT WOULD take a brave man to discuss with anything like straight-faced solemnity the long-term future of the Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill.

O'Neill, lest we forget, was the talk of the town back in June - well two cities, actually, Leicester and Liverpool. The smart money had him moving to Everton, a stage grand enough to house his ambition yet one awash with sufficient spare fivers to guarantee a meaningful overhaul of resources.

But something went wrong, quite probably O'Neill's reluctance to resign his post at Leicester before Howard Kendall had been relieved of his duties at Everton. And so, the great chance was lost. But others will come, for O'Neill is exceptionally good at what he does.

For a team assembled at no great expense, Leicester are marvellous but it is becoming increasingly difficult for O'Neill to content himself with a life drawn up to meet financial directives rather than footballing objectives.

On Saturday, as always, O'Neill praised those honest journeymen who serve him so loyally, but his face betrayed the fact that, unless he is able to introduce two or three more players of real quality,

further progress will be out of the question. That Leicester did not claim a point was criminal but O'Neill could barely find the energy to lodge a formal complaint.

The Premiership is an extremely demanding place, so you simply cannot afford to take 25 minutes off during a game as we did," he said. O'Neill was referring to Leicester's abject first-half display which was seized upon by Blackburn Rovers to settle an untidy game. The decisive blow was struck by the recalled Kevin Gallacher, who steered in smartly after good work by Gerry Flitcroft.

Like Leicester Blackburn are still in need of fine tuning but unlike Leicester they have the money to do so.

The afternoon never once hinted at fluency and was disappointing but the two teams were hardly helped by the referee Ursula Rennie, who booked seven players in a display of pedantic nit-picking. Rennie carried his gross mismanagement of affairs deep into injury-time when he chose to ignore the fact that Blackburn's Tim Sherwood barged over Leicester's Steve Walsh as they awaited a Gary Parker throw-in.

Of course it was a penalty but, as he had totally ruined the game, there was never any chance that Rennie would see fit to make Leicester's day.

Wimbledon 1 Leeds United 1

Kinnear finds new grounds for complaint

Adam Sims

WIMBLEDON remain unbeatable on the pitch but the team are restless and the sweetest victory for Joe Kinnear would be to scratch away their seven-year itch of ground-sharing with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

A hard-fought draw against Leeds United on Saturday did little to quell the Wimbledon manager's frustration at the lack of help from Merton Borough Council to re-house his team.

"It's a nice stadium but I wish it were ours. I wish the borough would put their hand in their pocket and spend a few quid," Kinnear said. "It doesn't seem to matter who gets into power, whether it's the Conservatives or the next mob, still nothing happens. I just don't know what we've done wrong not to deserve our own stadium."

Irish Football Association eyes did not smile at a plan for the Dons to move to Dublin, a proposal to take over Wimbledon greyhound track went to the dogs and Flogh Lane, though it still belongs

to the club, is redundant as a stadium. A return to the Dons' spiritual home on the Lane would thrill the fans but a place to call home is the top priority and a site near Gatwick Airport in Horley seems to hold the most promise.

"We get on this pitch to train if we're lucky twice a year," Kinnear said. "Last year we weren't allowed to use it at all. If we owned a stadium and a pitch we could train on it when it suited us. You can practice set plays and corner kicks and the players can get to know the

shape and contours of the pitch," knowledge sadly lacking in the first half on Saturday when only the agility of the Dons' goalkeeper Neil Sullivan kept Leeds at bay.

If Leeds achieve their reported aims of signing Tottenham's Darren Anderton and Newcastle's German midfielder Dietmar Hamann they could be title contenders. Wimbledon are more concerned about the challenge from the leafy suburbs of Merton and Wimbledon, for the tennis championships in SW19 do not help their cause. "God knows how much the borough

spends on tennis," Kinnear said. "It's a fortune for about a month a year. I don't know if any of that tennis mob has ever won the FA Cup."

On this showing silverware will be the last thing on Wimbledon's minds come May and it always looked likely that Leeds would end their run of not scoring on their league trips to Wimbledon since September 1995. The goal that came was worth the wait, Lee Bowyer latching on to a clearance to volley high past Sullivan. Michael Hughes, not to be outdone, struck a 25-yard banner to level things.

Middlesbrough 1 Derby County 1

Ricard's power spares Boro's blushes

Harry Pearson sees Teesside discover a new hero

BACK in the Twenties Middlesbrough fielded a defender, Jack Marshall, of such strapping physique and durability that the press nicknamed him The Ferro-Concrete Full-back. At the Riverside Stadium on Saturday there were signs that Boro might have uncovered the Scot's latter-day attacking equivalent.

The Colombian striker Hamilton Ricard, bought last season from Deportivo Cali, has the bulging shoulders of a bull buffalo and legs so chunky they make Stuart Pearce's thunder thighs look like twigs.

Introduced at half-time, the 24-year-old equalised with his first touch, a downward header from Paul Merson's right-wing cross, and almost added a second when he brushed a couple of Derby defenders aside like matchwood only to see the excellent Russell Hoult smother his toe-poked shot.

The big man's robust intervention roused both teams and the game ended with a flurry of action that had seemed inconceivable during a first half that matched the surname of County's German defender Stefan Schnoor.

That the opening period was so uneventful owed much to the amount of possession enjoyed by Paul Gascoigne. The former England midfielder still has his old turns and slick footwork but allowed to dictate the pace of the game these days he usually opts for a leisurely trundle. His occasional attempts to generate something more lively by running at a Derby defence, ably marshalled by Igor Stimac, invariably came to naught.

Middlesbrough's assistant manager Viv Anderson said before the game that Gazza was 10 games away from full fitness. Whether increased stamina will bring back his old acceleration remains to be seen. At the moment he compensates for lack of a top gear by lending off his opponents with both arms outstretched as if holding open a double door for a woman with a pushchair.

Derby were happy to sit back and absorb such pressure as the home side could produce. They are a tidy outfit, particularly in midfield. Lee Carsley was outstanding throughout and the former Blackburn Rovers player Lars Bohinen, too, had a good match.

The clever Norwegian has had a rocky time since his acrimonious departure from the City Ground, but there were signs on Saturday that, unlike King Kong, he may yet survive leaving the Forest.

Like Faustino Asprilla, Paolo Wanchope is an entertaining mix of the graceful and the gangling. One minute he is lolling about doing a passable impression of a day-old calf which has just head-butted a tree stump, the next he is loping past defenders with gazelle-like elegance.

His 51st-minute goal was a cocktail of both elements with an added dash of comedy stirred in by Boro's defence. Bohinen's cross appeared innocuous until the keeper Mark Schwarzer elected to come charging 15 yards off his line to collect it, collided with Wanchope and the centre-half Gianluca Festa and collapsed in a heap. The ball eventually popped clear of the resulting whirl of falling limbs. The Costa Rican reacted first, kept his balance and drove the ball beyond the lunging Colin Cooper.

And so things might have remained but for the arrival of the pre-tensile steel centre-forward.

Coventry City 0 West Ham United 0

Ferdinand the star pupil in an Academy teaching its own lessons in the art of defence

Ian Mailes

PREMIERSHIP opponents had better brace themselves. The Irons have discovered a new defensive strategy from the few chances that came either sides way.

Magnus Hedman, the Swede expected to face Glenn Hoddie's England on Saturday, made the most telling contribution when his reflex save denied West Ham's fan Wright by stopping his point-blank header after 27 minutes. Six players were booked, four from West Ham, and

while Redknapp describes Margas as a "tough nut," Neil Ruddock, newly arrived after a loan spell at QPR, is no soft centre either. Ruddock was one of those yellow-carded when, just after the break, he jumped to challenge Dion Dublin; the sound of his forearm connecting with the striker's face could be heard in the top of the stand.

But Redknapp denies that the Academy has suddenly changed into Bash Street. He said: "We took the game to them in the first half and I don't believe we have

changed our style. We're continuing to play as we did last season with two wing-backs who are really wingers and the goals will come. Margas was outstanding and it was not a dirty game and the bookings were silly. Harrison's being particularly harsh."

Redknapp believes his team could qualify for Europe this season after being edged out by Aston Villa when they finished eighth last May. Along with a rugged defence he has a creative midfield in which the Israeli Eyal Berkovic

made a series of penetrating runs as he refused to ratify a win the World Cup as a protest against no players from his Lens team being in the squad, is a real find.

He was overshadowed, though, by his opposite number Rio Ferdinand but the 19-year-old's groin injury makes him doubtful for England next weekend.

"He is a frightening talent, a real Rolls-Royce of a player," enthused Redknapp. A Rolls-Royce spluttering before autumn will be a worry to Hoddie, though.

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Closing date Monday 14th September

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Writer/Editor Aleppo, Syria

Would you like to take a direct part in the developing world's fight to feed its people and protect its environment? ICARDA is an international agricultural research center based near Aleppo in Syria. We are part of a 16-Center worldwide network funded by the World Bank, UNDP and other donors. Our task is to find ways to meet the growing food shortfall in the world's fragile low-rainfall environments - without causing desertification, overuse of scarce groundwater and loss of biodiversity.

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We need a broad spread of skills. You'll be able to write good features and news releases, but you'll also have to edit scientific publications - so a life sciences degree, although not essential, is helpful. You should also have at least a basic understanding of production software and processes, including DTP and colour separation. And knowledge of multimedia tools and the Internet would help. Last but not least, you will need to be tactful and culturally sensitive. In return, we offer an internationally-competitive package including a car, relocation, annual airfares, 30 days leave, health insurance, and an international school.

If you'd like this challenging post, please send your CV as soon as possible to: **Dr John Doolan, Assistant Director General (Research), ICARDA, PO Box 5468, Aleppo, Syria. Tel: (963-21) 213477, 225112, 225012, Fax: (963-21) 213490/225105 E-Mail: J.DOO@ICARDA.COM. Visit our website: <http://www.icarda.org/icarda>**

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The Market Research Society (MRS) is the professional body representing over 8,000 individuals engaged in market research in the UK and overseas. MRS provides a wide range of membership benefits and services - professional standards and guidelines, vocational qualifications and membership grades, training and development, conferences and seminars, publications and information services. With a budget in 1998-99 of £3.5 million (of which 80% is commercial activity) and a staff of 32, MRS plans to strengthen and extend its services.

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- Providing expert advice on data protection, marketing communications, fair trading, privacy and other issues relevant to the practice of market research.
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The successful candidate will be of graduate calibre, with proven analytical skills, attention to detail and experience of giving policy advice at a high level, often at short notice. Experience of the legal system and/or issues of professional ethics and regulation would be a significant advantage, as would knowledge of either market research or related marketing/media sectors.

To apply please send your CV with a covering letter including salary requirements, telephone number and current salary details, to: **Harvey Nash Ltd, 15 Brixton Street, London W1X 7AH. Tel: 0171 323 6032 Fax: 0171 405 0032 Please quote reference number: SD919. You may also apply via Internet: <http://www.harvey-nash.co.uk> or e-mail to: jd.cole@harvey-nash.co.uk**

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This post is an outstanding career development opportunity for an ambitious commissioning editor. We offer a very competitive remuneration package which includes car, bonus, pension and other benefits in commensurate with working for a major international organisation.

Please write with a detailed CV indicating current salary to: **Philip Silver, Human Resources Manager, Thomas Nelson & Sons Limited, Nelson House, Mayfield Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 5PL. E-mail: phil.silver@nelson.co.uk**

Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd

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SCIAF, Scotland's leading aid agency, is the international relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. It seeks to empower the poor and oppressed and to engage the Scottish public in the process of building a more just world.

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A salary on a scale of £18,000 to £21,000 is offered depending on experience. SCIAF operates a contributory pension scheme.

For a job description and application form, please send an A4 SAE (5p) quoting the reference number SCIAF, 5 Oswald Street, Glasgow G1 4QJ.

Closing Date for applications: 18th September 1998.

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the best girls' mag in the world

is looking for a

BEAUTY EDITOR

Are you a blossoming Beauty Ed? Do you know the difference between Barry M and Bobbi Brown? Wanna be the most popular person in the office? Then this is the job for you.

We're looking for a classed-up Beauty Ed to join Bliss magazine, the top-selling teenage girls' monthly. Directly relevant experience is not necessary, but you must:

- be able to show examples of your beauty styling,
- be very, very creative,
- be able to compose a truly beautiful shot,
- have an unbeatable knowledge of our market,
- and last, but by no means least, have heaps of ideas for original beauty stories.

If you think that you've got what it takes, send your CV, the Beauty story ideas and some samples of your work to: **Kerry Farrell, Editor, Bliss, Entertainment Weekly, 189 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JG. Closing date Friday 11 September.**

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A fresh approach to women's magazines

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The Guardian The Observer

Classified Field Sales Executive Manchester

The Guardian The Observer

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Currently the Classified Recruitment Sales Team generate sales of the overall advertising Department. This is due to the excellence of the current team and the long-established relationship that the Classified Recruitment Department has with the media.

To ensure we maintain and build upon this position we need a highly motivated Field Sales Executive to join us.

You will be expected to set up new and well established offices, providing professional advice and selling our range of advertising products together with relevant on-line services. Your role will involve close liaison with our sales support departments, with the opportunity for further liaison with regional and events departments.

You will need to be a strong communicator with a will to succeed. You will be intrinsically skilled, ensuring you can build relationships with both current and prospective clients. With a minimum of 6 months sales experience, preferably 2 years, you will need to demonstrate the

ability to work within a team, organisational and influencing skills, communication and negotiation skills. Ability to work to deadlines under pressure. A sound understanding of advertising is essential.

Working for us means you achieve key targets and a motivating and enjoyable approach to work. We are looking for a person who has an excellent basic salary, this company can be added to, you will have the potential to earn up to £5,000 per annum. We also offer 5 weeks holiday, a private health care scheme, a contributory pension plan and excellent on-going training and development from a company with two National Training Awards.

We are looking for a person who is interested and motivated to bring you to this role to:

Kevlin Derrington, RFD Consultant, The Guardian & The Observer, Classified Recruitment, 189 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JG. Closing date: Tuesday 8th September 1998

مكتبة الامير

Europe

SPAIN									
Real Sociedad	3	Oviedo							
Español	1	Torrevieja							
Valencia	1	Maracaibo							
Castro Vigo	2	Deportivo Coruna							
Real Betis	1	Real Madrid							
Real Zaragoza	2	Atletico Bilbao							
Real Murcia	1								
Alaves	0	Real Betis							
Valencia	1	Atletico Madrid							
FRANCE									
Bordeaux		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Pts
Metz	4	2	0	0	6	3	12	0	6
Strasbourg	4	2	0	0	6	3	12	0	6
Olympique Lyon	4	2	0	0	6	3	12	0	6
Montpellier	4	2	0	0	6	3	12	0	6
RC Lens	4	2	1	1	12	6	1	1	6
Stade Reims	4	2	1	1	8	7	7	7	7
Stade de Reims	4	2	1	1	8	7	7	7	7
Paris SG	4	2	0	0	5	5	5	5	5
Nantes	4	2	0	0	2	3	3	3	3
Stade de Reims	4	2	0	0	2	3	3	3	3
Nancy	4	1	1	2	5	5	5	5	5
Stade de Reims	4	1	1	2	5	5	5	5	5
Stade de Reims	4	1	1	2	4	11	4	11	4
AS Auxerre	4	1	0	2	3	3	3	3	3
Stade de Reims	4	1	0	2	3	3	3	3	3
Stade de Reims	4	0	2	2	1	4	4	4	4
Stade de Reims	4	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0
Stade de Reims	4	0	1	3	2	11	11	11	11
FRANCE									
Metz	1	Strasbourg							
Strasbourg	1								
Metz	3	Toulouse							
Strasbourg	3	Girondins Bordeaux							
Strasbourg	3	Stade de Reims							
Stade de Reims	0	Olympique Marseilles							
Strasbourg	0	Stade de Reims							
Olympique Lyon	1	Marseille							
RC Lens	2	Nancy							
Strasbourg	4								

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**Stirling
Grass of South**

	Games	Yell	Red	Avg
Wilkie	1	7	0	7.0
Harris	1	7	1	7.5
Barber	2	13	0	6.5
Ronald	2	12	0	6.0
Jones	2	11	6	5.5
Lodge	2	10	0	6.0
Emery	2	10	0	6.0
Winter	1	5	0	5.0
Reed	1	5	0	5.0
Pell	2	8	1	4.5
Dunn	1	4	0	4.0
Onifroy	0	10	1	5.0
Elworthy	2	8	0	5.0
Poley	2	8	0	5.0
Alcock	2	2	6	2.5
Sturge	2	0	0	2.0
Dunkle	1	2	0	2.0

**Cowdenbeath
Brechin**

Liverpool	44,429	44,428	44,428
Derwent	40,112	38,376	38,376
Arundel	39,054	39,014	38,970
Newmarket	36,718	36,714	36,714
Chelms	34,785	34,785	34,785
Widhambrough	34,162	34,161	34,161
Tetterton	32,129	32,129	32,129
Lewis	30,632	30,632	30,632
Arton Villa	29,569	29,568	29,568
Sheff Wood	30,236	29,950	29,950
West Hens	26,008	26,029	26,029
Derby	25,747	25,747	25,747
Blackburn	24,007	24,007	24,007
Forest	22,546	22,546	22,546
Covevory	23,042	20,810	21,810
Leicester	21,037	21,037	21,037
Whimbleton	23,031	16,437	19,437
Charlton	16,488	18,486	18,486
Southampton	15,202	14,942	15,000

Third Division

Reporters have voiced anger at the current re-

Reporters have voiced their anger at the current regime at the club by heckling into the club's website.

Visitors to the homepage of the Doublie winners were greeted yesterday with a picture of the Carlisle chairman and a letterhead from the club's website. The letterhead, signed Michael Knighton and a message from fans requesting support.

A demonstration is planned at tomorrow's game against Southend and a 100-man support were received within 12 hours. A spokesman for the Cumbrian Hackers Alliance said: "Michael Knighton has continued to run down this club over the past couple of years."

"It's a ridiculous situation for the club to be in and we could end up like Bury," said a supporter of the Arsenal site but we're trying to get support from all over the world," Carlisle are currently 10th in the league and lost to Exeter on Saturday.

In the real world, Lee Glover shot Rotherham back to the top of the table as they beat Cardiff 1-0 and secured

The Millers keptlogged Hants, who took over first place in the league with a defeat of Shrewsbury.

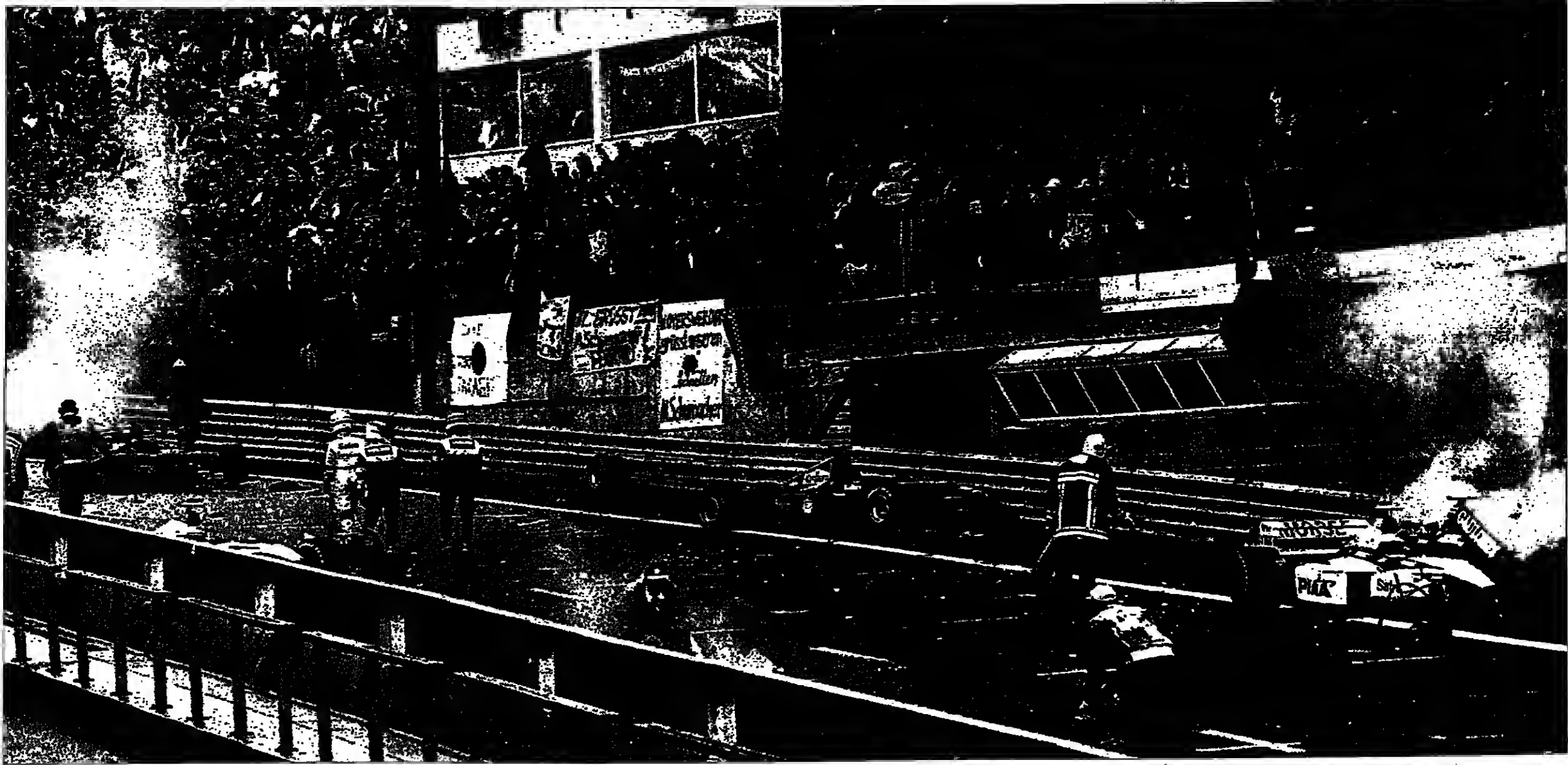
Barnet are third in the table after beating the bottom-placed Barnet 3-0 at Underhill.

Hull player-manager Mark Hattle, who hit a late penalty at Chester last week, scored for the Tigers again as they won 1-0 at home to Peterborough.

At the Conference, the St. Ives Borough manager Paul Fairclough is relying on the home support at Broadhalfpenny Way today where Borough will meet the Suffolk-based defeated Forest Green Rovers 2-1 away from home with goals from Carl Alford and Lee Howarth, ending the supporters' wait for a home win.

Fairclough believes this was essential to his team's success.

"I think that the support that we will be getting from our supporters today is going to help our cause considerably. We have got to use this to help keep pushing us on and we will then be vying for the top spot," said Fairclough.



Schumacher curses Hill's rain dance

Torrential conditions looked to have played into the German driver's hands — until a controversial accident gave Damon Hill a long-awaited victory. **Alan Henry** reports from Spa

THE last time Damon Hill stood on the top step of a grand prix podium, he was celebrating not just a race win but victory in the drivers' world championship. Much has happened to Hill in Formula One — most of it unhappy — since that memorable 1996 Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. Yesterday, the Belgian rain washed away the pain of nearly two barren seasons.

Hill's controlled victory, by less than a second from his German team-mate Ralf Schumacher on one of the calendar's most challenging circuits, was even sweeter for his Jordan team — and celebrated accordingly — having taken 127 grands prix over eight seasons to arrive.

Yet Hill was fortunate to survive a horrendous multi-car pile-up coming out of the first-corner hairpin, which caused the race to be stopped at the end of the opening lap.

"All I could see was what looked like a Ferrari and Coulthard's McLaren touching as we came out of La Source," Hill said. "Then Coulthard got away slightly, there was a lot of spray, and the next thing I knew he'd hit the wall on the right and was coming back across the track along with a bouncing wheel. I was heading right for him so I just had to go for it and got through without hitting a thing."

Behind Hill, cars pinballed in all directions with wheels and debris flying dangerously close to the front row of the grandstand. After the dust and debris settled 12 cars —

the McLaren of Coulthard, Eddie Irvine's Ferrari, Alexander Wurz's Benetton, Johnny Herbert's Sauber, the Prost of Jarno Trulli and Olivier Panis, the Tyrrells of Takanosuke Takagi and Ricardo Rosset, the Arrows of Mika Salo and Pedro Diniz, Shinji Nakano's Minardi and Rubens Barrichello's Stewart — lay scattered across the track. Only later did it become clear that, although Coulthard and Irvine had touched out of the corner, the Scot actually lost control of his McLaren after hitting a drain cover on the track.

With as many spare cars pressed into action as possible, only Panis, Salo, Rosset and Barrichello — who complained of an injured elbow — failed to make the restart.

This time it was the other McLaren — that of the championship leader Mika Hakkinen — which spun out of the hairpin and into retirement. The stage was set for Michael Schumacher to take the title lead, and his failure to do so sparked controversial scenes in the paddock.

Hill's erstwhile rival had been comfortably ahead when his Ferrari crashed into the back of Coulthard's McLaren as he attempted to lap it. The German three-wheeled back to the pits and out of the race, leaving from his damaged car in a fit of rage. He stormed down to the McLaren garage, where his mechanics had to restrain him from lashing out at Coulthard, whom he accused of causing the accident.

"Are you trying to kill me?" shouted Schumacher as he was dragged away. The double world champion was called to

the stewards immediately after the race to account for his unruly behaviour, while Coulthard's car — which had lost its rear wing in the impact — was duly repaired and resumed the race to finish a distant seventh.

The stewards eventually dismissed the incident as a racing accident with no sanction being taken against either driver. Coulthard refused to be intimidated by Schumacher's histrionics.

"Coming into the pits and asking me whether I was trying to kill him is totally unacceptable," he said. "I can't find words to describe how disappointed I am in Michael as a man that he could have still been in that state after driving back to the pits."

"It was disgusting behaviour. If he still feels the same when he has calmed down I have no further interest in discussing the matter with him." Hill had led the restarted race until lap nine, when Schumacher outbraked him neatly into the tight chicane just before the pits. Thereafter the acknowledged Spa ace edged away from the Jordan, apparently on course to take the championship lead for the first time this season with what would have been a fifth win on this circuit, matching the record established by Ayrton Senna.

Schumacher kept his lead through a single refuelling stop at the end of lap 16 when his Goodyear intermediate tyres were changed for full wets as the rain intensified. Hill came in on the same lap and resumed 22 seconds behind the Ferrari, an advantage which Schumacher extended to 37.7 seconds

Car wars... the first-lap destruction, above, was triggered by Coulthard, below, hitting a drain cover. Michael Schumacher's Ferrari, above right, lost a front wheel after hitting Coulthard's car, prompting some serious road rage from the German. Opposite: Eddie Jordan laps up his team's first grand prix win with Hill who, right and below, led at the restart after Hakkinen's McLaren expired

PHOTOGRAPHS: ROBERT WANDEN; SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL COOPER; PETER DE JONG; NATHALIE KOULSCHER

before colliding with Coulthard. Quite why Schumacher was pushing on so aggressively in the terrible conditions when he had such a huge advantage was a mystery which will doubtless be debated by the Ferrari in a moment in the run-up to their home grand prix at Monza in a fortnight.

Even more remarkably, the Ferrari driver was scheduled to make a second routine refuelling stop the next time round.

The incident left Hill in front of his team-mate Ralf Schumacher at the head of the field. The young German driver is a respecter of reputations and was clearly anxious to score the first victory of his short Formula One career, closing slightly on Hill as the race went into its closing stages.

With Jean Alesi's Sauber coming up hard in third place, both Jordan drivers knew they had to press on as hard as possible, but with eight laps to go, Schumacher was informed over the radio that he should hold second place and not challenge Hill further.

There must have been times over the past two seasons, since leaving Williams, when Hill must have wondered if he would ever win again. Now he is buoyant and upbeat, determined to build on this result to achieve more success for Jordan.

"I think we can be strong at Monza," he predicted, "but for now I just want to go out and celebrate."

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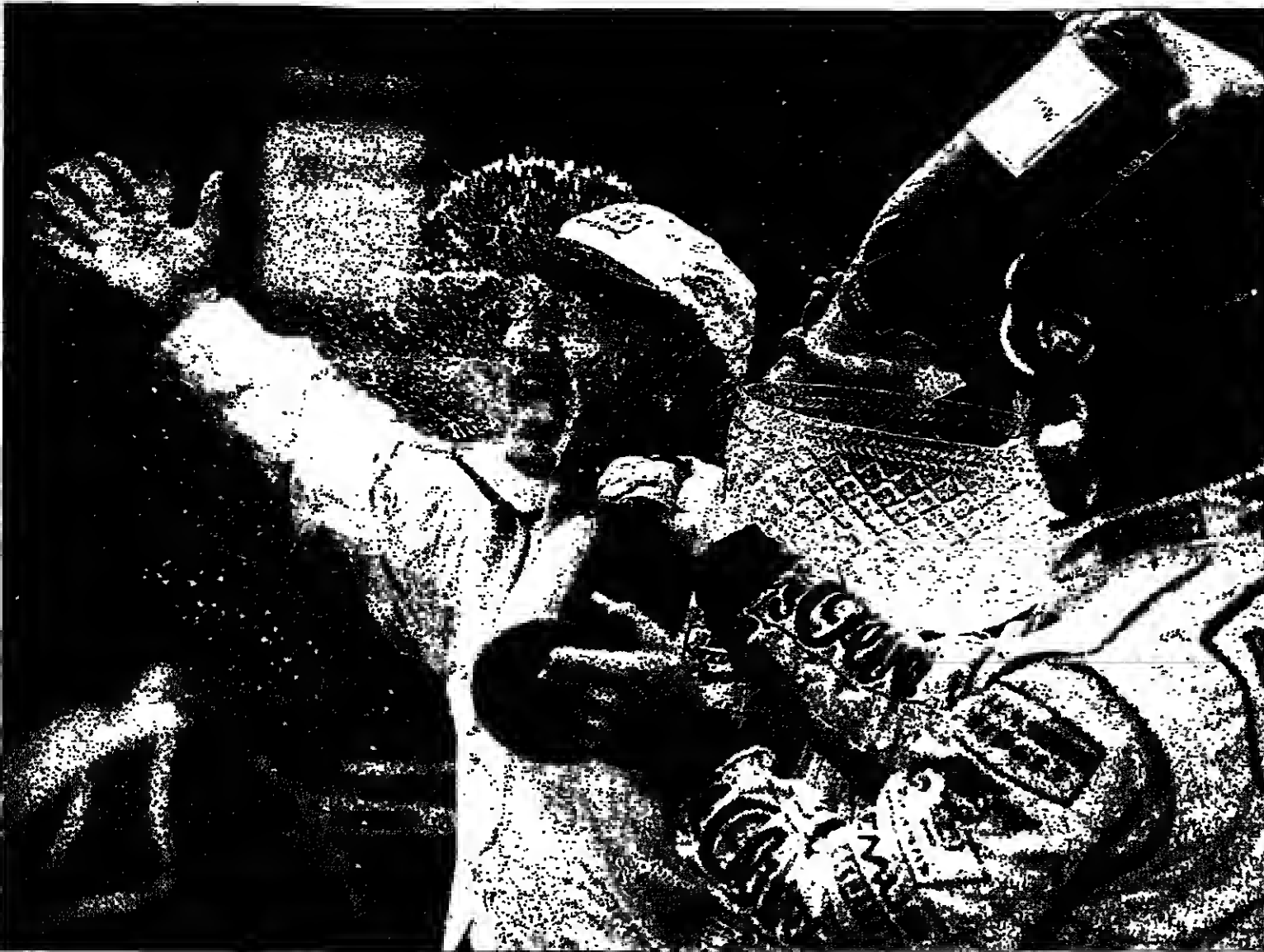
Belgian Grand Prix results

Round 13

	1 Damon Hill (Britain)	1:43.47.407
	Jordan-Mugen Honda	Average speed: 110.06mph
	2 Ralf Schumacher (Germany)	0.532sec behind
	Jordan-Mugen Honda	
	3 Jean Alesi (France)	+7.240sec
	Sauber-Petronas	
	4 Michael Schumacher (Germany)	+32.242
	Williams-Solbad Frone	
	5 Jos Verstappen (Netherlands)	+51.562
	Danca-Parmalat	
	6 Trulli (Italy)	2 laps behind
	Force 1	

Other finishers

7. Olivier Panis (France) 3 laps behind; 8. Alexander Wurz (Austria) 4 laps behind; 9. Johnny Herbert (UK) 5 laps behind; 10. Mika Salo (Finland) 6 laps behind; 11. Shinji Nakano (Japan) 7 laps behind; 12. Rubens Barrichello (Brazil) 8 laps behind; 13. Eddie Irvine (UK) 9 laps behind; 14. Pedro Diniz (Brazil) 10 laps behind; 15. Takanosuke Takagi (Japan) 11 laps behind; 16. Ricardo Rosset (Brazil) 12 laps behind; 17. Olivier Berthoin (France) 13 laps behind; 18. Jean-Marc Gounon (France) 14 laps behind; 19. Christophe Bouchut (France) 15 laps behind; 20. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 16 laps behind; 21. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 17 laps behind; 22. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 18 laps behind; 23. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 19 laps behind; 24. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 20 laps behind; 25. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 21 laps behind; 26. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 22 laps behind; 27. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 23 laps behind; 28. Jean-Marc Delvalle (France) 24 laps behind; 29. 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Crash threat to Spa's future

THERE is a tradition of spectacular first-lap accidents in Formula One, perhaps the most celebrated having occurred here during the 1966 Belgian Grand Prix.

That race — over the old 8.7-mile Spa circuit — started like yesterday's in very wet weather: a torrential shower moved across the pine forests of southern Belgium with devastating effect. On the opening lap, the pack ran into a wall of rain as they rounded a flat-out downhill right-bender, triggering a series of accidents. The most serious left Jackie Stewart trapped in the cockpit of his BRM in the courtyard of a woodcutter's cottage, three ribs broken and fuel pumping out all over his overalls.

The accident highlighted the dangers of running a race on a circuit where it can be bone dry at the start/finish line and soaking wet on the opposite side of the circuit. After the 1970 race it was decided to abandon the original circuit and the Belgian Grand Prix did not return here for 13 years, by which time the track's length had been reduced to 4.3 miles.

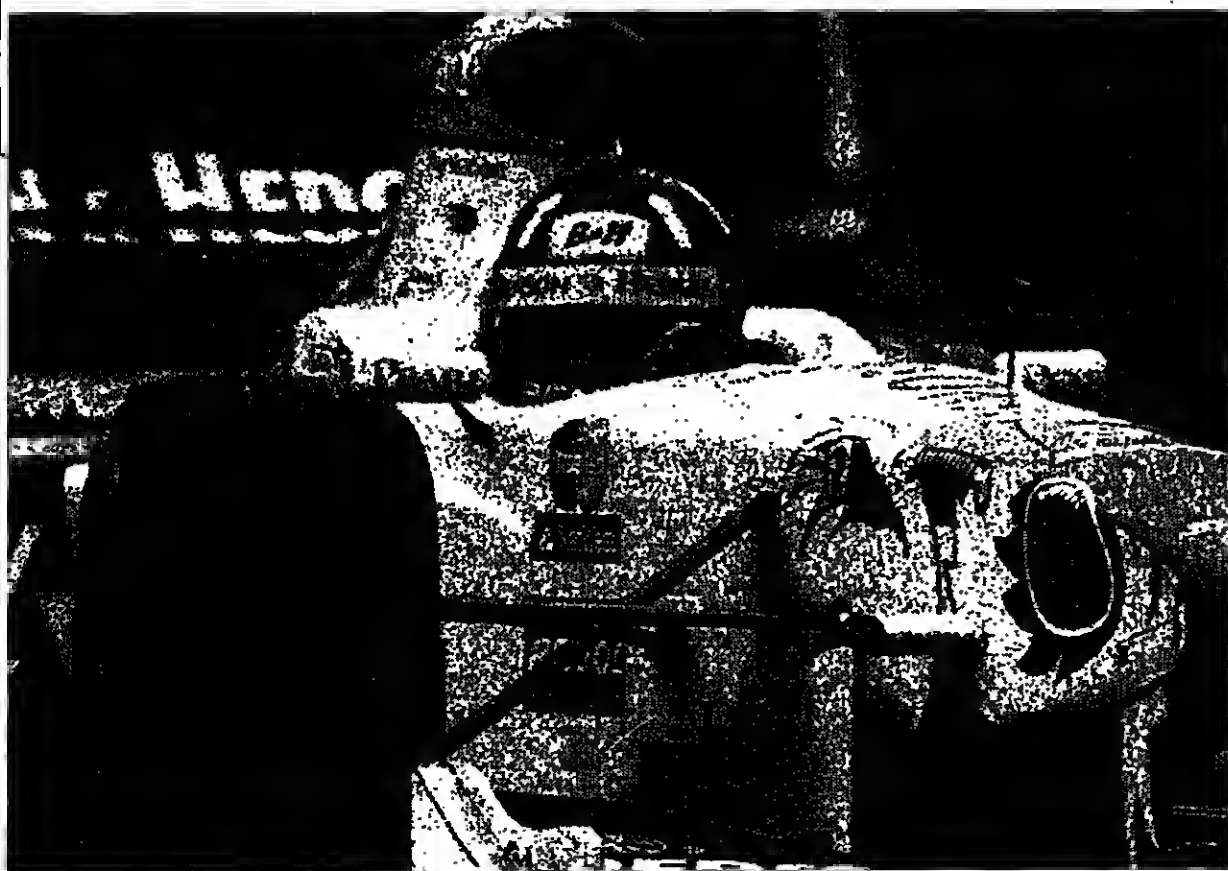
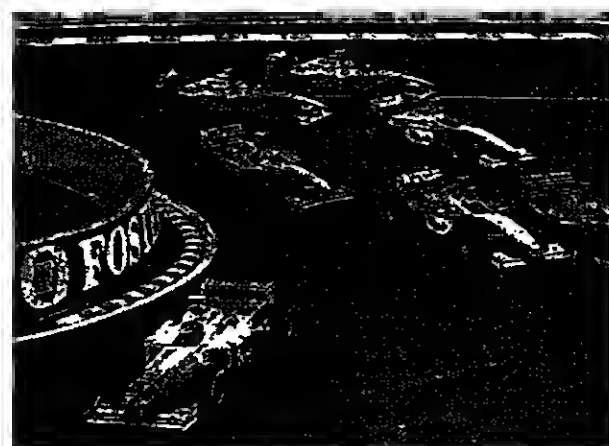
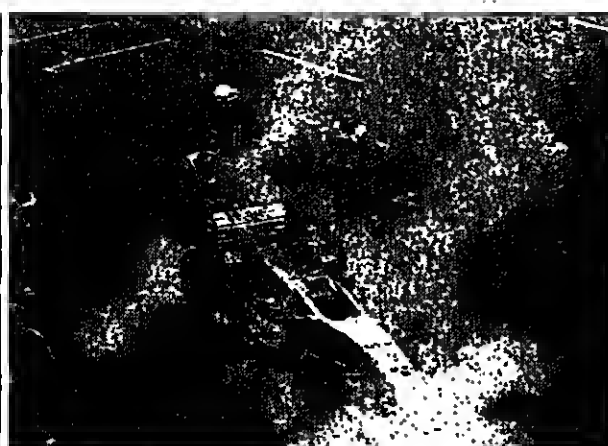
David Coulthard was one of many drivers who believed that yesterday's race should have been started behind the safety car at reduced speed, allowing the track to dry out slightly over the first few laps. The technique was employed in last year's race which went off without any drama.

"At various points in the race there were definitely unsafe racing conditions," Coulthard said. "The level of spray made it very difficult and with the speeds we do up the hill from Blanchimont back towards the pits — around 170mph — you are in a position where you are putting a lot of trust in the other drivers."

Damon Hill admitted he had clipped one of the Frosts as he lapped the French car on that section. "I think it shook him," said Hill, who shared Coulthard's concerns about the problems of racing at Spa.

Already this race's future is in jeopardy because of the EC's planned legislation on tobacco advertising. It would be a shame if the final nail was an accident which using a safety car could have prevented.

Alan Henry



Duel for the crown

James Mitchell assesses how the battle for the world drivers' title is going to unfold

Italian Grand Prix

Monza, September 13
Ferrari have traditionally produced a good performance at their home race even in years when they are uncompetitive. But this year it does not look good for Michael Schumacher, who is predicting a "subdued" race for the Italian team at the historic, high-speed Monza autodrome. Monza is one of the tracks at which teams are allowed to test before race weekends, and both times they have, Ferrari have struggled, lagging behind not only McLaren but also Williams. McLaren, by contrast, can expect to dominate. The most

likely result is a one-two for Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard and a third place at best for Schumacher.

Luxembourg Grand Prix

Nürburgring, September 27
McLaren and Ferrari should be closely matched on pole ahead of Schumacher. It is therefore almost impossible to predict who could win in Japan, where the weather could be hot and sultry or pouring with rain.

Japanese Grand Prix

Suzuka, November 1
Suzuka is one of the great

driver's circuits and its long, fast, sweeping bends should favour McLaren's superior aerodynamics. That is an exact replica of 1997, when Williams were cast in the place of McLaren and their driver Jacques Villeneuve qualified on pole ahead of Schumacher. It is therefore almost impossible to predict who could win in Japan, where the weather could be hot and sultry or pouring with rain.

The verdict

Mika Hakkinen will win the championship for McLaren. He will win in Monza thanks to a car advantage, and that will stretch his lead to more than 10 points — one victory — with just two races to go. After that, if he cannot win from the front, he should have enough of a margin to drive for points and secure the title in the last race.

Damon Hill reckons: "Mika Hakkinen is going to win the title

because he's seven points ahead and he is in what I think is the best car. But everything can change within a very short space of time."

Nevertheless, this season Schumacher has cemented his status as the best driver in the world, overcoming a disadvantage in machinery to mount Ferrari's most convincing title challenge in nearly 20 years.

Jackie Stewart, a three-time World Champion and now in charge of his own team, regards Schumacher's efforts as nothing short of "heroic" as he has constantly struggled to keep up. And in the view of David Richards, Benetton's managing director: "A fair conclusion might be Michael Schumacher winning the drivers' championship and McLaren the constructors'."

That way the best driver and the best car will have both prevailed.

Six staves in a six-ball over: Unique, Sobers, unbeaten on 76, declared and Notts went on to win handsomely. Norman's BBC cameras

in Monday's news programme.

As Sobers's sumptuous opening drives gave more notice of intent, producer John Norman, with a sixth sense, gave orders to begin recording and cueed Woolley to resume commentary. Sobers recalls: "I'd got to about 40 and decided to declare in another couple of overs. In his spinner's mode, Malcolm was still quick enough for me to swing hard, so even a mis-hit off the top edge might have cleared the boundary. As it was, I middled the first four pretty well in the centre of the bat and they went in var-

ious directions on the leg-side for stumps.

"The fifth was slightly wide of my off stump. I didn't quite get hold of it and it went high down to long-off where the fielder [Roger Davis] held it well but then fell backwards over the ropes. I was quite happy to go but, after a debate, the umpires signalled another six and only then — with the crowd shouting 'One more, one more!' — did any of us out there realise the significance. Last ball, I tried a change of pace but, fair dos, it came down just to my liking on middle-and-leg, and I

swung, and connected perfectly, and it seemed to go further and further out of the ground."

Woolley shouted into his microphone: "My word, it's gone all the way down into Swansea!"

Lewis remembers: "None of the 36 runs came from error of field placing. After the third or fourth six I said to Malcolm that he could 'give up Underwood' and go back to his usual 'into the blockhole' pace if he wanted. Otherwise, memory is just images of a blitz in all directions with a coil of the body and a lash of the bat. The sixth soared over the

scoreboard and up and on past the bulbs of the rugby floodlights."

Woolley had been just about right. The ball cleared Gorse Lane and then followed the length of St Helen's Avenue. Search parties were sent out. It was found to a guinea next morning by a young Glamorgan member, Richard Lewis. He handed it to Woolley, who gave it to Sobers who, in turn, gave it to the Trent Bridge museum.

Six staves in a six-ball over: Unique, Sobers, unbeaten on 76, declared and Notts went on to win handsomely. Norman's BBC cameras

rolled again at the close of play when Sobers and Nash walked across the field for an interview. "I suppose I'm entitled to be rather perky," said Sobers with a laugh.

"But it is nice that Malcolm is cheerful about it, too."

In 1985 in Bombay, India's (and sometime Glamorgan's) all-rounder Ravi Shastri equalled Sobers' 1968 record that had helped ensure Notts' fourth place in the championship.

Six staves in a six-ball over: Unique, Sobers, unbeaten on 76, declared and Notts went on to win handsomely. Norman's BBC cameras

PBs at Tottenham and a kick in the TEETH for Glenn

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

DOCTORS and nurses traditionally derive solace and some amusement by writing acronyms such as PIB on a patient's records to signify someone who is a pain in the hum.

There is no reason why this should not catch on in football after all, black humour is used across the world to cope with pain and suffering. Medics, soldiers, aid workers and war correspondents often resort to in-jokes and barbed references to keep their emotional distance from events that might otherwise engulf them. So why shouldn't Tottenham supporters?

White Hart Lane regulars have been turning up for years to watch the kind of player known as a THEFT (Too Hopeless Even For Tottenham). This expression should not be confused with daylight robbery which is what other clubs get away with when they sell these players to Spurs at impressively inflated prices.

Tottenham fans tend to tolerate a little Newcastle (Newcastle throwouts) and watch helplessly as the remaining decent players become Bolters, so called because they have Bugged Off Like Teddy.

Their hopes are raised and dashed by the purchase of replacements like MALT GAIWAY (Making A Little Talent Go A Long Way). Needless to say, they have long given up hope of winning anything and now ask only that the title goes to

ABBA (Anyone But Bloody Arsenal).

In medical circles, TAITT (Tired All The Time) stands for the kind of patient who causes a GP's heart to sink by making repeated surgery visits without having anything specifically wrong with them. At White Hart Lane it stands for what manager after manager has talked on the subject of the club's ambitions: Tripe All The Time.

The medical notes of someone with a dwindling but tenuous grip on life sometimes contain the acronym TFEUNDY (Totally F**** But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet). This season, thanks to Christian Gross, Tottenham fans quickly became familiar with TUBUNGY (Totally Useless But Unfortunately Not Gone Yet).

Increasingly the job of managing Spurs is known as an EKWOTI (Even Kinnear Won't Take It). Mystified as to why the former Atletico Madrid coach Raddy Antic actually volunteered to take over from Gross, the fans are asking WISSHOD (Why Is He SO Desperate) and keeping their fingers crossed that the present crisis will not end with the arrival of another BUCUS (Bald Unknown Creepy Unintelligible Swiss).

They are now so keen for someone to come in, invest insane amounts of money and build the club into one of the automatic choices for the European Super League that the word on the terraces is WETAWESARM (We Take Back Anything We Ever Said About Rupert Murdoch). Otherwise Tottenham supporters, who for so many years have been LID (Long-suffering In Defeat), are going to be SAD (Staying Away In Droves).

For all that, they do not hold the sole franchise on derogation and despair. Supporters of several other clubs are familiar with CRAPE players (Can't Run And Panic Easily).

The Crape made his name in defence in West Ham sides of the Seventies

but is now threatening to make a comeback at Chelsea. He should not be confused with the CRAUP (Can't Run And Usually Plastered) who can often be spotted in a Bryan Robson side.

Neither acronym should be confused with CRAAP, an adjective used around Old Trafford to describe the £10 million Dutchmen who look like telegraph poles, turn like tractors and get injured two weeks into the season.

Most sides have a PAWBUNS (Passes Well But Never Scores); the prototype being Stuart Ripley. They could also have a DROWOER (Dressing-Room Manner Par Excellence). MEWNOB (Means Well, NO Brain) is preferable to NOBNOB (NO Bottle, NO Brain), not to mention FOENOB (Foreign Overpaid Bitchhead, ditto). NIBNOB (Nice Barnett, NO Brain) should not be confused with LOBNOBS (Lots Of Bottle, NO Ball Skills), but both of them will have painful experiences when playing opposite the BOVVER (BOne-headed, Violent, Very Easily Riled).

A FOAL is a player who Falls Over A Lot, which is a very useful attribute if it leads to extra penalty awards, but less so if it is simply due to a DORK (Dodgy Right Knee) when, if a member of the England squad, he may find himself being POTL STEWED (Forced To Seek Treatment With Eileen Drewery).

DADY, of course, is Doing A Dwight Yorke, which means getting tapped by a bigger club and playing badly in order to encourage your current manager to flog you.

Lastly, one of the best-known medical acronyms is KERTH (Tried Everything Else, Try Homoeopathy). A rumour doing the rounds is that KERTH has been found on a Football Association memo, dated 1996, on the subject of replacing Terry Venables as England manager. It stands for Tried Everyone Else, Try Huddle.

Spracken's women going backwards at full speed

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

ROWING is unique as the only sport in which the definition of success is having everyone else in front of you. This curious condition must suit the British psyche, because over the years rowing is a sport at which we have been rather good.

Until recently, though, this has not been true of the women's boats which have generally found far too many crews behind them; that is, very few in front. This was never more than in Atlanta where, from six races, Britain could muster but a single finalist on the distasteful side and medals were a distant dream.

Mike Spracken had only coached one woman before starting as Britain's new women's coach in January 1997. But as the woman in question was Canada's Silken Laumann, and he had taken her to a world single sculls title in 1991, it suggested that his methods were not ineffectual.

And prior to that, of course, he had guided Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes to Olympic gold, so it surprised few when, within eight months of his appointment, a transformation had taken place.

At last summer's world championships at Aliguelette in France seven British women's crews reached finals and four medals were won, a perfect division of spoils with the men who also collected four. Contrast this with British athletics, where the ratio of success at the European Championships in Budapest was 8:1 to the men.

Spracken was duly rewarded with the National Coaching Foundation's Coach of the Year accolade and the British women enter this year's world championships, which start in Cologne on Sunday, with their expectations up several notches.

In the coxless pair, Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop might well have upped the medal count last summer in France. "It's easy with hindsight, but silver or bronze was there for the taking," said Blackie.

But Bishop caught flu and could not row before Blackie



In harmony... Blackie and Bishop

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE HEWITT

succumbed to the same virus the day after the competition ended. Francesca Zino stepped out of the sight to join Blackie in a substitute pairing, but losing your established partner is like tap-dancing without the tape; you tend not to make as much noise. They duly failed to qualify for the final.

This season has been different. They have not exactly carried all before them but they have carried a lot. In Munich and at Hazewinkel in Belgium, World Cup victories gave them a comfortable cushion for the overall World Cup title. They came to the final round at Lucerne "knackered" and were swamped by the Canadians Emma Robinson and Allison Korn, the reigning world champions. But fourth place still gave them the title; the only British crew to wear World Cup laurels this summer.

Blackie, 31, and Bishop, 26, have been in the sport for a while, graduating from the eight-post-Atlanta. Yet having Spracken on hand has been the first time they can claim to have had a paid coach as their adviser; with the National Lottery funding a lot. In fact, these days they can also call themselves professionals and mean it.

Previously Blackie had worked as a primary school teacher and then a part-time worker at the Amateur Rowing Association. "Having the Lottery recognition endorses it, endorses the work you have to put in," said Bishop.

All the money in the world, though, could not prepare them fully for Korn and Robinson. At Aliguelette the Canadians won the coxless pairs title with the greatest margin

of any crew in the championships and, at Lucerne last month, were seven seconds ahead of the Brits by the 1000 metres halfway mark.

Rounding off their preparations last week at a 10-day training camp at Varese in northern Italy, Blackie and Bishop were underbattered by the prospect. "We have one goal in mind and that goal is to win it," said Blackie.

Said Blackie: "It is a crucial element in the row equation; it seems to permeate through the division of the sport which is growing as fast as any in Britain. There are a few dinosaurs left who have a problem with it," added Blackie. "But this is the ideal non-contact team sport and it appeals to women."

At Henley even the dinosaurs relented and opened the cluttered little waterway to a women's eight competition between Great Britain, Canada, Australia and the United States. The competition was thrilling. Britain beat Canada by a foot in the semi-finals and lost to the Americans by one third of a boat in the final. There will be no going back now.

If they win in Cologne, Blackie and Bishop will immediately be established as favourites for the Olympics in Sydney. They will not discuss that issue, though. To do so means you have stopped concentrating on the process and have begun thinking of the rewards. When you enter the bubble of concentration, there must be no distractions.

That is why going backwards can sometimes help. That way you cannot see the winning post.

Golf

Early-bird Monty catches his form

Gordon Richardson sees the Scot get up with the lark at the BMW Open in Munich in an attempt to beat a bad spell

GERMANY was treated to the full Monty again in yesterday's BMW International final round here but spectators had to be up with the lark to witness the second coming.

Colin Montgomerie, left kicking his heels after missing his third half-century in five European outings, offered his services as a marker to the young English professional David Tappin, a tail-end, to make up an even number in the field of 66.

Up at 5.15am and off at 7.15am, Europe's No. 1 for the last five years strolled round in 66 to recharge his flagging batteries before the Ryder Cup qualifying process at this week's Masters in Switzerland.

The man who banked more than \$5 million prize money from 1993 to 1997, has added a further \$442,000 this term despite his recent mini-slump in which he also failed to get through the Open Championship and the European Open — his worst spell for seven years.

He admitted: "While I was glad to help out David — actually he might have been a little intimidated because he

shot 78 — I had another purpose in offering to play and that was to get my confidence back.

"It was awfully early to get up to play golf. I pushed one way right at the first and boyed the second when I still wasn't awake and I am not planning any more early rises.

"But I then made seven birdies and was a couple of inches away from eagling the last for a 65. It was very beneficial and I'll drive to Switzerland now to link up with my family, feeling good about my game."

Montgomerie required only 30 putts — 11 fewer than his Friday quota — and explained: "I concentrated on lining myself up square to the hole. I've been standing too open or at least thinking I was and pushing putts and it's left me very negative and in a bad frame of mind going to the next tournament."

"The Tour performance records show I was 13th in the putting rankings when I won the PGA Championship and 49th the week I tied in the Irish Open and lost a play-off. It's proof positive I have not been getting the ball into the hole and that's been my problem."

Hailing out proved no problem for Russell Claydon, the former English amateur champion and Walker Cup international with the role-poly 17-stroke frame and run-out golf swing.

The 32-year-old was run-up to Greg Norman in the 1989 Australian Masters while still an amateur and looked to be heading for great things. It has not happened but yesterday he ended a run of six second-placed finishes on the European Tour with a one-stroke victory over Kenny's Jamie Spence.

Cambridgehire's Claydon birdied four times in the space of seven holes coming home in 32 for a 68 and 18 under-par 270 to finish one ahead for a top prize of \$141,690.

Spence, who shot 60 when winning the European Masters in 1992, birdied three of the last four holes for a 66 to win \$204,440.

The German Thomas Geoghegan was third on 272 as Bernhard Langer, who dropped two strokes on the home straight, and the Dane Thomas Bjorn had to settle for 71.

Claydon, who single putted eight of the last 11 holes and had 27 putts in all, refused to be disappointed at winning the week before Ryder Cup qualifying begins. "It would be churlish to be picky about weeks after waiting so long for a victory."



Pulling his weight... England's Russell Claydon celebrates his first European Tour victory yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL SEVERN

Absolutely Super? Surely not

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Keeler

FOR SOME reason my satellite system at home has stopped receiving Sky Sports 2 and 3, which means I have been deprived of my normal diet of tractor racing live from Idaho, WWF wrestling, and Mike Salomone's Fishing Tales, not to mention my favourite commercial in which Christine Brinkley and Chuck Norris demonstrate one of those home fitness devices that will be rusting in the loft before your cheque has cleared.

There was more fun in watching the convulsions at St James' Park

What is exciting about this device is that it not only enables you to look like Christie or Chuck, depending on preference, it also apparently liberates you from the necessity of ever pronouncing the letter "t" again. It works "bi-laterally," agrees Chuck, before moving on to demonstrate the Dodal Gyn's unilateral work on something called the abdominal muscles. Anyway, in the absence of Christie, whose dazzling white teeth are actually the most unfeasible feature of her extraordinary body, I have been pretty well stuck with cricket and football, and what a drab old week it has been. About the most exciting action has been in the Newcastle share price.

There was certainly more fun in watching the convulsions at St James' Park on Friday evening's news than there was in the European Super Cup that followed.

The word "Super" affixed to a sporting competition, as in Super League, superlatives and so on, is usually a sign of desperation, an expression of forlorn hope rather than a valid description of what is on offer, but rarely has it been less accurately applied than to Chelsea versus Real Madrid live from one of Monte Carlo's top multi-story casinos. It was a preview of the putative European Super League, I intend to withdraw to my own private Idaho.

Desired Dynam, to his credit, made no more than perfunctory attempts to talk up the occasion. "There's bags of talent on display tonight," he suggested half-heartedly, before tackling the more important business of Kenny Dalglish's "resignation".

"I was playing golf with

Kenny on Tuesday and he seemed quite relaxed, almost buoyant," said Alan Hansen. David O'Leary confirmed that Dalglish seemed mysteriously unaware that he had just resigned. "I played golf with him this summer and he was looking forward to the new season," said O'Leary. Problem solved, then, Dalglish was "resigned" because he spent too much time on the golf course.

Unfortunately, the highly entertaining speculation about Dalglish and Ruud Gullit was interrupted so we could watch some of Europe's most highly paid athletes doing the minimum amount of work necessary to pick up their weekly envelopes.

Frank Leboeuf rather gave the game away in the pre-match interview when Ray Stubbs asked him how difficult it would be to motivate himself for the match. "I am a professional footballer. They pay me," replied Leboeuf with a Gallic shrug.

Even John Motson had to own up to the public's lack of interest for the fixture. "A hundred and forty-five countries will watch these pictures, 22 of them live, but there are only about five thousand supporters actually in the ground, so the gate money certainly won't break the bank at St James' Park," Motson admitted.

Des and his guests tried their hardest to whip up interest, without ever resorting to the Alan Brazil method of screaming in the faces, until we sign a confession admitting that Watford versus Grimsby is the most important football match in the entire history of the world.

O'Leary, however, was almost beside himself when an artist's impression of a real tackle went in in the early stages of the Super Cup. "There are one or two tackles here that suggest we're going to have a decent game," he said. That's right. Some way behind the Champions League, but just ahead of the Schleswig-Holstein Challenge Shield.

Finally, I believe in a column case three ago I took a sock filled with horse manure and set about one of Dominik Diamond's late night television shows. To reduce the balance, I should like to shower rose petals on his Saturday Sportsball, which is very funny. Gullit has replaced Dalglish, he suggested this week, so that the Newcastle players can be managed by someone whose English they can understand.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Cardiff	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

RUGBY LEAGUE

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Cardiff	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

RUGBY LEAGUE

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Cardiff	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

RUGBY LEAGUE

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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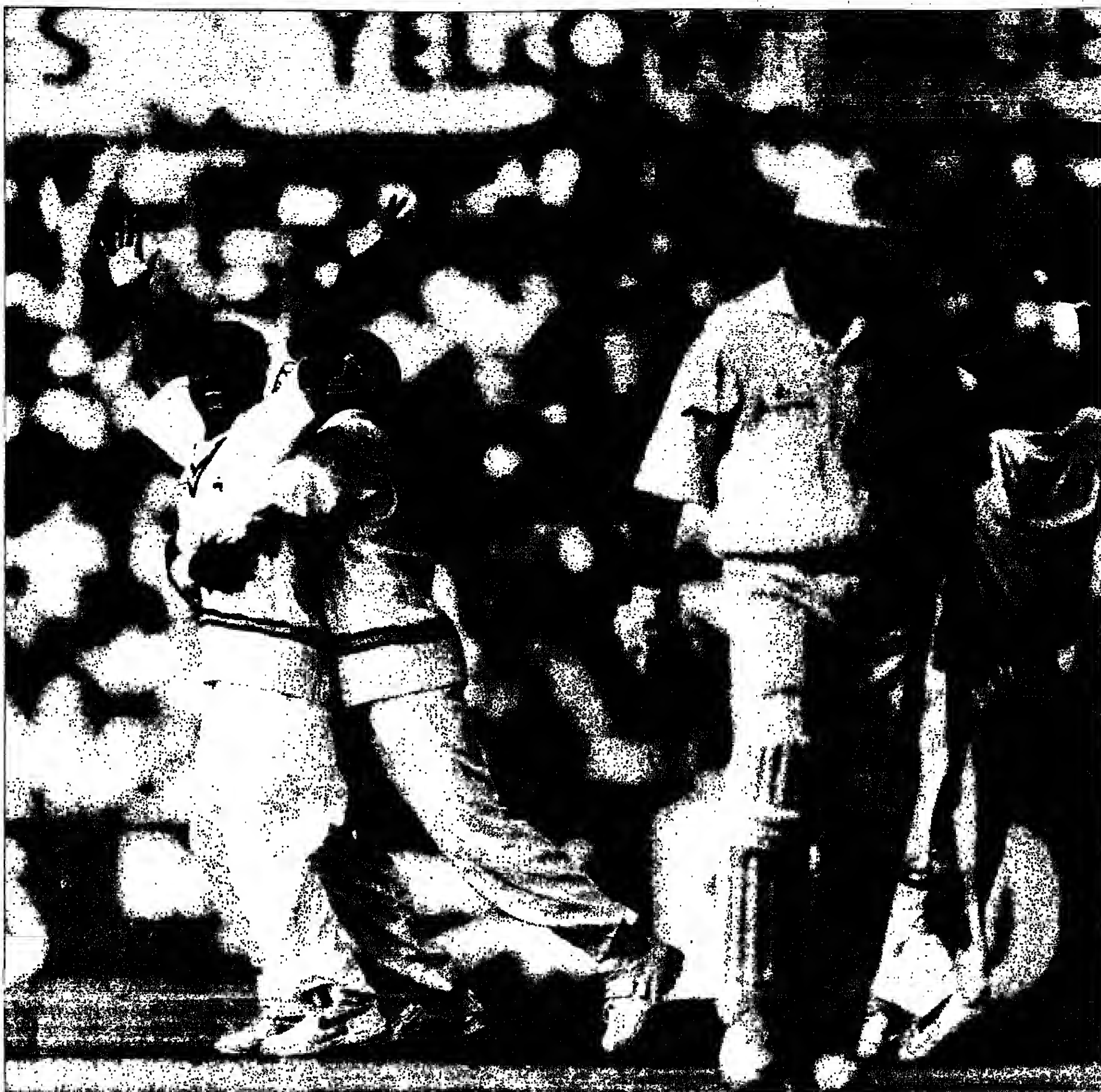
RUGBY LEAGUE

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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RUGBY LEAGUE

Walsall	(16) 20
F: Cannon, Cofey, Welaby. S: Gardard 4.	
Walsingham	(2) 14
F: Quirk 2. S: Khashin 2, Hetherington.	
Wals: 1,007	
Walsfield	(10) 13
F: A Hughes, Wrey. S: Casey 2.	
Walsbury	(6) 13
F: Evans, Long, Spink. S: Brameld 2.	

England v Sri Lanka



Thanks for the memory... Muthiah Muralitharan rejoices as England's first-innings century maker Graeme Hick heads for the pavilion after being trapped lbw second ball

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Cornhill Test, fourth day

Muralitharan tightens the screws

Mike Selvey marvels at the off-spinner undermining England's second innings

THIS is looking suspiciously like Sri Lanka's payback. Largely ignored by England since they attained full Test status 17 years ago, and patronised when they have not been ignored, the world champions have played their way to a position of dominance at The Oval. England will need to work hard to escape.

From Friday evening, when Sanath Jayasuriya began his merciless double-century dissection of the England bowling, torment has been heaped upon torment. The screw turned ever tighter.

First it was the Sri Lankan batting, which racked up a first-innings lead of 146, and then, in the final session yesterday, by the genius of Muthiah Muralitharan, whose off-

spinners floated down like parachute bombs only to explode on impact. Chatterings about the legality of his action are sounding like sour grapes.

By the close England had reached 54 for two, still 92 short of saving an innings defeat, with Steve James and Alec Stewart were clinging on grimly.

In successive overs from Muralitharan Mark Butcher, who gamely tried to take him on, was seduced down the pitch to be stumped as easy as flying a kite on Galle Face Green, and two balls later Graeme Hick was lbw on the back foot without scoring, his first-innings century already a thing of distant memory.

James, here because of Mike Atherton's injured back and trying all he knew to fill the usual England anchorman's

shoes, made it through all 42 overs so far in reaching 20. But it was tenacity rather than technique that helped him survive Muralitharan.

At the other end Stewart, who ended on 15, was blocking and kicking and — the bitter bit — increasingly becoming irritated by Ramesh Kaluwitharana behind the stumps.

When two, in Jayasuriya's first over of left-arm spin, Stewart survived a confident appeal for a bat-pad catch to silly mid-off. In Muralitharan's next over, Kaluwitharana's enthusiastic lbw appeal led to words being exchanged and the intervention of umpire David Shepherd.

On such a pitch — no pace and with all the growth potential of a Muscovite's investment bond — Sri Lanka can dominate anyone. Their bats-

men, Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva in particular, have scored at such a rate here that their 591 took 10 balls fewer than England's 445.

That lent them time, but the real difference between the sides is Muralitharan. In such conditions there are few spinners in the world who can wreak the same sort of havoc. England certainly do not have one.

Ian Salisbury, having sought a Test wicket for almost 60 overs this summer, managed to sign off with a success yesterday, but it was a belated one to end the Sri Lankan innings. If the pitches turn this winter in Australia, and Shane Warne's shoulder is recovered, the prospects are bleak indeed. Muralitharan came on at

the Vauxhall End to bowl the innings' ninth over, the last before tea, and produced a maiden. Apart from a change of ends he did not relinquish the ball until the day was done, and he seems destined not to do so until the game is won. He is Arjuna Ranatunga's only card.

Thirteen overs of flight and loop and spin like a buzzsaw brought him two wickets for 12 runs from that end. Not a delivery was played with certainty. When he switched to

the Pavilion end he bowled a further five overs for just four runs but somehow looked less dangerous. At some stage the England batsmen will have to take the attack to him, however perilous that may seem. Allow him to bowl and there will be only one winner.

It took England until shortly after three o'clock to finish the Sri Lankan innings. They had begun the day on 446 for three, a run ahead of England. They had been placed in that position

by a remarkable Saturday that produced 367 exhilarating runs, including a third wicket stand of 243 between Jayasuriya and De Silva.

De Silva, 125 overnight (his 17th Test century) was to reach 152 before he was seventh out, driving loosely at Ben Hollis to be caught at the wicket after almost eight hours' batting.

Given that just two wickets had fallen on Saturday it completed a good morning for England.

Lloyd casts doubt on spinner

David Hopps hears England's coach reopen the chucking debate

MUTHIAH Muralitharan continues to charm every dispassionate observer, but England will forever murmur privately that he is a chucker. Cleared of throwing by the International Cricket Council after medical and video evidence, the Sri Lankan spinner has long been found innocent, but still must endure insinuations that he is guilty.

To the imaginative mind, Muralitharan is a wonderfully freakish talent, born with a locked elbow and a monomaniacal wrist which combine to make him one of the most astounding off-spinners in Test history. But to the professional mind, especially the professional mind threatened by defeat, imagination is soon destroyed by resentment.

"I have my opinions and I have made them known to the authorities," said England's coach David Lloyd last night. "They have a spinner with an unorthodox action, we have a spinner with an orthodox action. Ian Salisbury was spinning it as much as he could. Muralitharan spins it more all over the world. He is the only one who has benefited from this success."

Lloyd presented the Oval Test as a contest between an "unorthodox" spinner, Muralitharan, and an "orthodox" one, Ian Salisbury. Why stop there? It would have been equally valid to accept that it is a contest between a great spinner and a mediocre one.

When Muralitharan's creative wrist was compared yesterday with the gentle leg-spin of Salisbury, which was plunked down with the anxiety of a young dinner-party hostess aware that the starter was not up to scratch, it was possible to make the rare observation that the off-spinner was actually more of a wrist-spinner than the wrist-spinner.

Forget the hot-housing winters with Australian leg-spin coaches. In the interests of English cricket, perhaps all Salisbury needs is a blacksmith able to weld his elbow at 180 degrees.

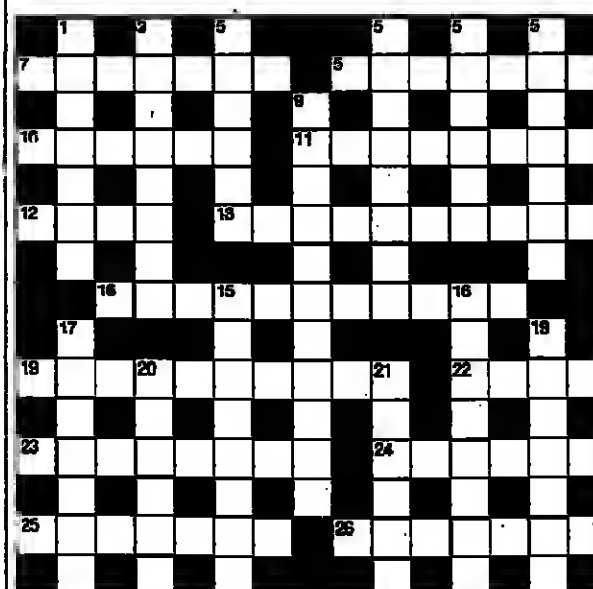
When the England selectors finalise this winter's Ashes party today, to include Salisbury would be tantamount to an act of cruelty. No matter how much the stump microphone picks up Alec Stewart bawling "pressure's building, Solly" or "great bowling, Solly", in a Test match, in his heart of hearts, the bowler will never quite believe it. No amount of gum chewing will change that.

Stewart's determination not to allow a one-off Sri Lankan victory to dim an otherwise triumphant Test summer is considerable, and it led to testy exchange, while batting, with Sri Lanka's close fielders, which led to the umpire David Shepherd telling all parties to calm down.

What Elmo makes of England tomorrow should be interesting.

Guardian Crossword No 21,367

Set by Rufus



Across

- 7 Enjoy embracing one's rescuer (7)
8 In grave trouble, certainly in a pickle (7)
10 Note to change flag (6)
11 A quality that's uncommon (8)
12 Not a cheap term of affection (4)
13 Minor example of proportional representation (5,5)

Down

- 14 Sheet anchor (5-6)
19 No doubt backers at cockfighting had an eye to it (4,6)
22 Bails a fielder hasn't caught (4)
23 Sheridan's captain bales out when in trouble (6)
24 In part of a hospital — mental, perhaps (6)
25 Scuttle off for food (7)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE #1,360
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Gayle Rose of Woolwich, London, SE18, Myra Stokes of Clifton, Bristol, Mike James of Sheffield, James Bentley of Darwen, Lancashire, and N. J. Burton of Birmingham.
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

13 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 336 228. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service suspended by ADS.

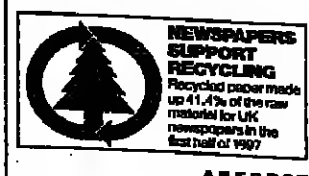
26 Small vessel can be manufactured in wood (7)

Down

- 1 Controlled order of agenda after start of meeting (7)
2 Station carriage (8)
3 Protects a drug's recipe (6)
4 Edited diaries about Liberal ex-PM (6)
5 Be inclined to shelter in the garden perhaps (4-2)
6 Fresh flowers? (7)
8 One using his loaf to support the family (11)
15 Unwanted gas pipes (6)
16 Robin to indicate complicity in trick (6)
17 Hide the port? (7)
18 Caterer gets involved in a domestic row (7)
20 Mug one may put one's teeth into? (6)

21 Questionable way to get out information? (6)

Solution tomorrow



ANPPRST

Jackson back on track for USA

Duncan Mackay in Glasgow

COLIN JACKSON showed he really is back when he beat the world Olympic champion Allen Johnson in the 110 metres hurdles for the first time this season here last night.

The Welshman, representing Britain in the match against the United States, pulled off one of the most satisfying victories of his career, tipping his American rival on the line to clock 13.46sec.

Before the race Jackson was given a standing ovation by the 6,000 capacity crowd in the tiny Scotstoun stadium, in recognition of winning his third consecutive title in Budapest earlier this month.

All of Britain's European Championship heroes were given rousing welcomes. Few were cheered more than Iwan Thomas, the 400m winner.

The Southampton runner, though lacking sharpness after a week of celebrations, still comfortably claimed the scrum of the world record holder Butch Reynolds but had to battle hard to hold off the United States' Milton Campbell to win in 45.13sec.

Allison Curbishley gave the passionate crowd an early opportunity to wave their lion rampant flag when she set the Scottish record in the 400m, the first track event of the evening. The Anglo-Scott raced to victory in 50.73sec, the fourth time she has broken the record this season, as she held off her team-mate Katharine Merry,

running the event for only the third time in her life.

Merry had only decided to tackle the distance again after helping Britain to a bronze medal in the 4x400 metres relay in Budapest last Sunday.

And the 22-year-old Birkenhead athlete, who has made such tremendous strides under the coaching of Linford Christie this year, served notice she is going to be a real talent over the distance.

Her time of 51.02sec took more than half a second off her previous best and knocked Sally Gunnell down a place in the United Kingdom all-time list. Merry plans to move up to the one-lap distance next season and she and Curbishley seem set to share the kind of rivalry which has driven Thomas and Mark

Richardson to such heights.

Few of Britain's European heroes enjoyed the homecoming as much as Doug Turner, the 200m silver medallist. With the champion Doog Walker forced to watch from the sidelines, after undergoing a knee operation last Thursday, the Welshman raced to victory in 20.63sec over a top-quality field which included the world indoor champion Kevin Little.

Jonathan Edwards is another European champion who is also set to go under the surgeon's knife to finally cure the ankle problem which has plagued him all summer. It will rule him out of the World Cup final and the Commonwealth Games. "I could have gone but I would have been jumping injured," he said.

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